The high way men are pictur'd in the fact
Yett Heaven dont wink att ye great Sin they act

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Henry THE Bradshaw
English Rogue;

OR,

Witty Extravagant:

Described in the LIFE of

MERITON LATROON.

CONTAINING,

The Description of his Birth and Parentage. His early Waggeries and more mature Villanies. The Hardships and Punishments he endured: the many Pollicies and Stratagems he invented to support himself: and the various Discoveries of Cheats and Rogueries made by him. His many Escapes from Danger; and the frequent Troubles and Pressures of Mind he lay under for his wicked Exploits. His many witty Expressions and Observations of Things and Matters. His Amorous Discourses and Entertainment. And in fine, his various Fortunes and Misfortunes through the whole Course of his Life. With the eminent Cheats and Artifices of either Sex layed open, as a Warning to all Persons to shun the Mischiefs that attends an evil Course of Life, *&c.*

The Four PARTS.

To which is added a Fifth PART, compleating the whole History of his Life.

Read but don't practice, for the Author finds
They which live Honest have most quiet Minds.

London, Printed for *J. Back* at the *Black Boy* on *London-Bridge*, near the *Draw-bridge*, 1688.

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Jan. 27*th.*
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THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

Reader,

THough you may think it ſtrange that I have undertaken a Work of this nature, ſeeing there are ſo many living Examples of the ſame kind, yet they guilding their Enormities over, and flouriſhing them for the moſt part, that they appear to the Ignorant and unthinking Perſon otherways than they are, and too often enſnare him into Miſchief and Ruin: I have therefore thought fit to draw the Sceen and diſcover Vice in its Deformity, expoſing the many miſchiefs, hazards, illconveniencies, ſhame and dangers that attend a wicked and profligate Courſe of Life, which may prove a Romera to deter thoſe that have hitherto declined it, and ſtop the Career of ſuch as are running headlong to confuſion. So Seamarks are ſet up to warn the Sailor from falling foul on Rocks, Shoals and Sands that will prove his Deſtruction: and it is through Ignorance and want of Admonition that thoſe who walk in

strange Countries mistake, and eat poisonous Fruits, because their golden and vermilion Rinds promise them a pleasant and delicious Taste. Nor can the feigned Tears of the Ægyptian *Crockadiles deceive the Natives, but too often draw the unwary Strangers into their power, and destroy them. The* Hyenna's *counterfeit Voice is too well known to the experienced Shepherd than to train him from his Cottage: and* Ulysses *being pre-admonished of the* Syreens, *securely heard the Melody of their Inchanting Tongues, by lashing himself to the Mast, and so prevented his leaping into the Sea. And indeed the Enemy of Mankind, by shewing the seeming Pleasure of Vice, and hiding the punishment that inevitably attends it, prevails with the simple One, greedily to swallow his guilded Baits of ruin, and final desolation: and now if any construe my Intention otherways than to discourage Vice, they must give me leave to tell them they mistake the main End of this Book. However, let them take it in what sense they please, I cannot imagine that any thing contained in it, can offend even the Ears of the most Modest or Cinical Reader, if too much Partiality do's not intervene, it having been my care to render it in a Style familiar, smooth and pleasant; and so hoping it may answer these Ends to which intent it was written, I am Reader,*

Your very humble Servant,

M. L.

TO THE
AUTHOUR
Upon the peruſal of his Book, Intituled,
The Engliſh Rogue, &c.

IF Archneſs may take place, or Rogues have praiſe,
This Rogue from all the Rogues will win the Bays;
Who, with his Infant Food, ſuch Vice ſuck'd in
That many end where he did but begin.
To early Villanies inur'd he grew,
The Maſter of all Fraud and things durſt do,
That in the Reading muſt amaze Mankind,
A Prodigy in Nature here to find:
Yet in his Acts, his Plots and Policies,
In which the Glory of the Machine lyes,
He's ſmooth and pleaſant, ſtirs no breath of Air,
But ſuch as may inchant the Reader's Ear:
What might ſeem harſh with ſoftneſs is allay'd,
As are the Strivings of a yielding Maid.
Nor can it prove ingratefull to the Age,
Unleſs to thoſe that tread on the ſame Stage:
Nor ought it to diſguſt them, 'cauſe in this
Each may behold what his dear Rogueſhip is.
'Tis ſtrange *Epheſian* Fire you here produce,
Which large may prove (if rightly ſcand) of uſe,

Not to be imitated, but deter
Such as are hurrying in a full career,
Down the dark steps of Vice to Ruin's Gate,
And rashly push themselves upon their Fate.
For who that follows in the Rear and finds
His rash Forerunner, broke by Seas and Winds
Upon opposing Rocks, and will not steer
A Course contrary, mov'd to it by fear?
Or from a fatal Shaol, who would not stand?
Where mighty Ruins strew the bloody Sand.
But to conclude, though this Rogue had his time
And in all Villanies had past his Prime,
He turn'd a Penitent; and 'tis my Wish,
That every Rogue would make his End like this.

SIR,

Your very humble Servant,

J. S.

THE

THE English Rogue:

OR,

Witty Extravagant.

PART. I.

CONTAINED

In the Life of *Meriton Latroon*:

Containing an Account of the ſtrange Paſſages and Tranſactions of his Life, &c.

CHAP. I.

He gives an Account of his Birth and Parentage, and what pretty Tricks and Rogueries he played during his being with his Mother; and after his being put to School how he robbed his School-maſter, and upon being puniſhed for it run away and betook himſelf to Rambling.

WHEN I had made a ſtrict enquiry after my Pedigree, I found my ſelf, notwithſtanding, at a loſs, for Time had worn out the cognizances of my Anceſtors; and what was moſt memo-

rable, if that may redound to my credit, was, that ſundry of them had been Profeſſors of the *Gentle-Craft*: as for my Grandfather, by the Induſtry he uſed, he had the good luck to arrive at the height of a Farmer, when confeſſing himſelf the Top of our Kindred, he one day, in an Ambitious mood, mounted one of his Mold-hills, and ſtrutting like a Turkiſh Baſſaw he proteſted by his Plow-ſhare, that his eldeſt Son, my Father, ſhould be a Schollard, and ſo far proceed in Learning till he could perfectly Read and Write Written-hand, for indeed it was not known to any that his Predeceſſors could diſtinguish one Letter from the other, or much exceed their Horſes in Underſtanding, and that to talk to them in any Dialect but that of a Bag-pudding, a ſwindging piece of Beef, or a Peck Loaf, was but Labour in vain: however, my Father being of a winning Behaviour, when he came to grow up became wonderfully the delight of the Females, and did not a little give himſelf up to practice the Art of making Love, and proceeded to many Extravagancies therein; notwithſtanding, my Mother being then a Virgin, young and unexperienced, fell deſperately in Love with him, being much taken with his natural Parts, and preferring her Affections before the Duty to

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her Parents, she was Married to him without their knowledge, yet brought him a conſiderable Portion. But what can ſupply a boundleſs Extravagancy? he in a short time, by running into all manner of Profuſeneſs and Diſorder, conſumed it, and by that means was forced, by Neceſſity, to rack his Invention how to ſubſiſt: but before he fixed upon any thing conſiderable, my Mother was disburthened of the firſt Fruits of her Wedlock, and tumbled me, her hopefull Iſſue, into the World; being born in *Ireland*, whither my Father, by this time, had betaken himſelf, to avoid the Importunity of Dunns; yet he had not been long there, before Death, the moſt inexorable of Serjaints, Arreſted him for the Debt due by Nature, and layed him up without Bail or Main-prize in the endleſs Durance of Eternity.

My Father being Dead, my Mother thought of returning to her Friends, which with the firſt conveniency she effected, and was very kindly received, after she had a little humbled her ſelf for her former Tranſgreſſions. And I being now about five years of Age, began to indulge my ſelf in all the Waggaries my tender years were capable of acting. I remember amongſt other Pranks, we had a Turkey-Cock that had a great ſpight at my red tammy Coat, and gave me many a brush

brush upon that occaſion: which put me upon ſtudying Revenge, and long I was not e'er I effected it, for ticeing him to the Orchard-Gate, which fell too with a Pulley, he no ſooner put his Head between that and the Poſt but I let it fall, and catched him by the Neck, and ſo having him faſt, at an advantage, I diſpatch'd him with my Catſtick that he was never after able to riſe up againſt me; and as a Trophie of my Victory, diſpoiled him of his Tail and Wing Feathers and placed them in my Bonnet, taking ſuch pride therein, that in gazing up to behold the Spoiles won from my mortal Enemy, I ſtrained the Opticks of my Eyes and much diſtorted them for a time: however the ſweetneſs of my Face was ſuch, that many took delight to gaze upon me, eſpecially my Mother, who doted upon her Hopefull Offspring; for as the old Proverb ſays, *Every Bird thinks her own the Fairеſt.* But our tedious lying upon our Friends made them, as it is uſual in ſuch caſes, begin to grumble and grow weary of our Company; which cauſed my Mother, who was naturally of a great Spirit, to leave them, and caſt her ſelf upon Providence, ſo that we Rambled a conſiderable time from place to place; yet ſhe, by reaſon of her prompt Wit and winning Behaviour, found

every

every where tollerable Reception for us both: and at laſt coming to ſome Settlement, after ſhe had taught me to Read indifferently, ſhe put me to a Grammar-School to be better inſtructed in Learning; where having a natural Itch at Roguery, I became at my firſt Arrival an extraordinary Book-worm, ever ſecuring to my proper Uſe as many as privacy would give me opportunity of conveying away, ſo metamorphiſing and altering their Property before I ventured to ſell them, that the true Owner could not know them.

This Courſe I followed a long time, which coſt my School-fellows ſevere Puniſhment for their Careleſneſs, as well by their Parents as Maſter: As for the Money thus gotten, I had various Uſes, and eſpecially to bribe thoſe of a higher Form to make my Exerciſe, which made me appear more forward in Learning than indeed I was, and furthered my Opportunity to Rob Orchards and play many other Pranks; and indeed when by this means I was advanced to the higheſt Form I did not well underſtand the loweſt Author. As for Truanting, I was very much accuſtomed to it, and then wou'd I Milk the Cows in my Hat, pluck the Firſt and Second Quills of as many Geeſe as came in my way, and if I happen-

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ed on any ſtragling Poultrey I made ſure Game of them, having an Old Woman who ſold Ginger-bread and Toys in the Town for my Receiver, who purchaſed them and other Things of the like nature for a Trifle, and many times ſuffered me to partake of the Dainties into the Bargain; as well ſhe might afford it, for I ſeldom had above two-pence for the value of a Shilling, and ſometimes like the *New England*-men I barter'd Ware for Ware.

When any of my School-fellows whom I durſt not cope withal, by reaſon of their being too ſtrong for me, had any ways affronted me, I ever ſtudied till I had privately revenged it, either by ſtrowing parched Peaſe on the Stairs, ſticking Pins under their Seats, ſcattering cut Horſe-hair in their Beds, or making them blot their Writing, for which they under-went the Diſcipline of the *Ferula* at leaſt, and never let them know my Reſentment till I had effected my Revenge. But in the end, my Maſter diſcovering my defect of Learning, and that he had been deceived in me, he Degraded me and turned me to the lower Form, which I ſo ſtomacked that I prevailed with my tender and too indulgent Mother to Remove me to another School, which ſhe the rather conſented to, for that I young as

I was

I was, I began to be Rude with her Maid, putting her frequently to the ſqueak by Ruffling her, ſhe being a Girl not exceeding Fourteen years of Age.

Being at my new School where I was entered a Boarder, and ſo had the opportunity of coming Home but ſeldom, my Allowance being likewiſe ſhort, and I finding here no Receiver for what I happened at any time to ſteal, I was forced, for the better ſupplying my craving Appetite, to inſinuate my ſelf into the good opinion of the Cook-Maid, who helped me to many a dainty Morſel when the reſt of my Aſſociates went Supperleſs, in a manner, to Bed: yet wanting Money to ſupply my Extravagancies I was much diſcontented, and thereupon caſt about how I might come by it; and having perceived my Maſter, who was very antient to have a little Cabinet in his Chamber, into which likewiſe I had ſeen him put Mony, I reſolved to make it my Prize, or the Mony that was in it; but the Smith, upon my coming with the Impreſſion of my Maſter's Key in Wax to have a falſe One made, began to queſtion me, and looking ſo ſow'rly upon me as if he intended to Apprehend me, I betook my ſelf to my Heels, and deſpairing afterward to do any good that way, I reſolved upon another, and ſo concealing my

my ſelf in the Chamber whilſt my Maſter was at his Study, upon his being called down and forgetting to lock the Door after him, it being then Evening, I ſlipped out with what I aimed at, and paſſing that Village undiſcovered, I travelled all night, and the next Morning found my ſelf near another 16 miles diſtant, where ſuppoſing my ſelf ſecure, I betook me to a ſmall Inn, and for my better Refreſhment after ſo tedious a Journey, called for a Pint of Sack, being much taken up with the thoughts of my rich Booty, and how I ſhould diſpoſe of it; the which whilſt I was doing, and the People of the Houſe were asking me ſeveral Queſtions, as whence I came, whether I was going, and what I had got, in came a Conſtable with a Hue and Cry in ſearch of me which daſhed my budding Joys and turn'd my Mountain into a Mole-hill, for both my ſelf and my Treaſure were ſecured, and what added more to my vexation was, that I was hurried away before I had time to taſte my Liquor.

Upon the News of what had happened, various were the Diſcourſes of the People: This, ſays one, is a prime young Rogue to begin thus ſoon. Ay, ſays another, he would doubtleſs have ſtoln ſomething out of his Mothers Belly if he could but have

ſeen

ſeen there. Well ſays a third, it is an old Saying, *Forward Fruit is ſoon Rotten*, &c. Whilſt theſe Cenſures paſt uponme, andevery old Woman in the Town had a fling at me, I was in a ſhaking fit almoſt ready to dye for fear; however, I knew I muſt weather it. being in all haſte carried back to my Maſter he confined me to my Chamber till he had acquainted my Mother with the Prank I had played, and being loath to give me up to the Puniſhment of the Law, by reaſon of my tender years he undertook it himſelf, not only by ſhortning my Diet, but by giving me every day a ſevere Whipping, and in the end ſo flead my Buttocks that they were Strangers to the Skin that formerly cover'd them.

My Mother receiving advice of this my early piece of early Thieviery, ſoon arrived, and upon the firſt ſight of me was ſo impatient that ſhe took the Rod my Maſter had been exerciſing a little before upon my *Podex* and would needs correct me her ſelf, but when ſhe had uncaſed me and perceived how my tender Breech was Ploughed and Harrowed, and my Shirt as ſtiff as Buckram with blood, her Anger failed and ſhe fell down in a Swoun, but by my Maſter's help ſhe recovered, and he thereupon endeavoured to ſatisfie her how neceſſary it was to bend

bend a Twig before it came to be a Tree, and that great Punishments were deserved for great Offences, and then proceeded to tell her of a many Tricks and Rogueries that I had played, as biting holes in the Boys Ears when upon their Backs, squirting indecently in his Face, playing Tricks with the Maids Ware, and almost blinding my Mistress with a Sir——— which I dropped upon her Face out of the Casement as she was gauping upward, fireing a Pistol at a Cobler in his Stall, and at the same time discharging a squirt of Bullocks blood in his Face, which making him suppose he was shot through the Head, he fell down as dead with fear and could hardly be recovered; with many the like Pranks, though not half that I had played, adding that he durst not keep me longer, for that my Abuses were such as had raised so many Complaints of the Country People that he was weary of hearing them, and therefore advised her to take me along with her. But whilst she was debating this matter, and not knowing well what to determine, I resolved to put an end to the Controversie, and finding an Opportunity whilst she and my Master were in discourse I sneaked down stairs undiscovered, and getting into the Street betook my self to my heels, resolving to throw my self upon

For-

Fortune, and ramble the wide World at a venture.

Thus head-ſtrong Folly raſhly ſpurr'd me on,
With early ſteps in haſt to be undone.

CHAP. II.

How he behaved himſelf in the beginning of his Rambles, and the fright he was in, in being unexpectedly ſurrounded by a Company of Gypſies. How he liſted himſelf one of their Tribe and the Order they obſerve. How leaving them he betook himſelf to the Begging Trade. Of the trick he ſerved a Tinker and his Trull. And a Theft he committed, &c.

HAving left my tender Mother undoubtedly in great perplexity, and caſt my ſelf wholly upon Fortune for my ſubſiſtance, for a ſhort time, I conceived it very pleaſant to be thus at Liberty, the Summer ſeaſon likewiſe favouring me with ſmiling Weather: So that day I wandred up and down the Fields, taking pleaſure to ſee the Harveſt Reaped and got in, and for want of other Proviſion I fed upon Blackberries, Corn Ears, and what elſe the Fields afforded me: but

but Night coming on, I began to bethink my ſelf of a Lodging, and when I caſt it in my mind, I plainly perceived I muſt forgoe a Down Bed for a Hay-cock, and that Heavens Canopy muſt be my Coverlid, and ſoon I found out a Lodging of that kind, and wearied with ſauntering about in the day, I there fell aſleep and waked not till Morning, and then I again began my wandering Progreſs, when in ſpite of all my former Reſolutions, ſad thoughts came into my Mind, and I reflected not only upon the Grief I had left my Mother in, but upon my own Condition, that I was Rambling I knew not whether, without any Money or Friends, that I deſigned to go to, and above all Hunger began to pinch me, nor was the wild and raw diet I found on the Hedges any longer plaſant: but howſoever weathering that day with ſome Diſcontent, I got the next night into a Barn which ſeemed ſomewhat more pleaſant than my former Lodging, but ſcarce had I tumbled over head and ears in the Straw, but I heard a confuſion of Voices which loudened and ſeemed to approach, and at that time the remembrance of Stories of *Fairies*, *Hobgoblins* and *Robin-good-fellows*, coming into my mind put me into a fit of trembling, when immediately I was ſurrounded with humane ſhapes

ſtill

ſtill gabling an unknown Language or Noiſe, at which, imagining that now was the time I ſhould be puniſhed for all my little Rogueries, I got upon my Knees and cry'd aloud, *Great God have mercy on me, and let not theſe Devils devour me*, and ſo burſting through the Gang I got clear of the Barn, but they imagining me to be ſome Sprite or the Ghoſt of ſome Murthered Perſon that haunted that place, were in the ſame fear and fell likewiſe to running, and I finding them, notwithſtanding the ſpeed I made, even at my heels, fell on my knees and betook my ſelf to Prayer, by which means they having time to come near and flock about me either of us were convinced of the miſtake, and they perceiving me, by Moon-light, to be a likely Lad, intreated me in the Language I underſtood, to go back with them, to which in this indigency I conſented, and there they ſpent the night partly in Drinking and Eating for they had brought with them ſtore of Proviſion, and partly in ſleeping and dallying with their Morts and Doxies, which are in common amongſt the Brother-hood.

Morning being come, for which I earneſtly longed, they being rouſed by the *Patrico* who is their Scribe to write their falſe Paſſes, *&c.* they very importunately demanded if I was content to accompany them, pro-

promising me many advantages, and above the rest a brisk young Lass, one of their Company not exceeding 13 years, which Allurements, in the Condition I was in, drew me to Herd with them; whereupon they stripped me of my Cloathes and pinned and tacked so many Rags about me, as served to cover my Nakedness, and rubbed over my Face and Hands with the green Husks of Walnuts, insomuch that I was strangely metamorphis'd in a moment, as well in colour as in Apparel, and if I had been to uncloath my self, as amongst that kind of Cattle it is seldom used, I could never have found the way to have covered my self with the same Garments.

Being thus accoutered, and having well refreshed my self I prepared to follow my Leaders, our whole Ragged Regiment consisting of about sixty persons old and young, for it seems this was a general Meeting, and least so great a Company should be troublesome to it self or give offence to the Country we were ordered into three Divisions, each Division being commanded to stick up small Boughs by the way at divers Turnings that each Company might be at a certain, in taking several ways, not thereby to follow or intrench upon each other, each *Doxy* carrying a Child at her back, and perhaps another

in

in her Arms, though for eaſe each Company had Horſes or Aſſes to carry the Children in Dorſers upon them, like green Geeſe going to Market; ſome of us were Antickly clad like Morrice-Dancers with Bells to allure, by the ſtrangeneſs thereof, the Country People about them.

As for our Pretences when he had gotten any number of People together in a Market or Village they were, That we were Allied to the Ægyptian *Magi*, even to the Wiſe Men, and that we ſucked in the Knowledge of the Stars with our Milk, and that we were familiar with Fate and Deſtiny, by which we poſſeſſed the ignorant People with a real Belief that we could tell their Fortunes by inſpecting their Hands or Faces and whilſt with a ſet Form of Words we were mumbling ſomewhat to 'em, one of our Gang ſeldom failed, if not to pick their Pockets, at leaſt, to get ſomething of value from them, and by asking the ſilly Wenches and Fellows Queſtions, we gathered the propereſt Reſolutions from their own mouths; then would they fall into admiration and wonder, trembling at the ſame time to hear the truth of their Affairs proceed from the Mouths of Strangers, by which means we gained in many places a great Reſpect, accompanied with fear. And thus we rambled

up

up and down the Country, nor did the Pigs, Lambs, Geese, Ducks or any thing of the like kind, escape us, our Cook-Room and Dining-Room being commonly a Furzy-Heath, or a Gravel-pit, and our Lodging-Rooms the Barns or Out-houses of small Villages, nor did we lye down without good store of strong Liquor and a Canting Song or two. But in the end grown weary of this Company, I, for my better experience, thought fit to betake my self to another not much different, *viz.* to the Crew of *Stroling Beggars*, &c.

Being out of Love with the tedious Rambles of my old Masters and Dames the Gypsies, I resolved to betake my self to a slenderer Company, and thereupon had the Happiness to stumble upon an old Mumper skilled in the whole mystery, and of him I learned to tune my Voice to a strain that was most likely to move Compassion, acquainting me what places were fittest for the purpose, with the times and seasons, directing me when I should be importunate and when I should desist, ever wishing well to the Lives, Healths and Estates of such as gave me nothing, that it might not be a discouragement to them to give me another time, or at least to some other of our Profession, and to those that give he ordered me to pronounce aloud, *God bless you Master*

and

and let Heaven reward you for what you have done on Earth, &c. and that if any pittying my tattered Condition ſhould give me good Cloaths, I ſhould ſell them as ſoon as out of the Donor's ſight, and ſtill keep to my Rags, having the right Art of making all kind of ſeeming Sores and pretenſions of Lameneſs to move Compaſſion, ever obſerving if we went in Couples, not to beg far aſunder, being ſure to be up early in the morning, that People might imagine my Lodging had been under a Stall or a Bulk all night, and ſo have the more pitty on me.

Being furniſhed with these and the like Inſtructions, we reſolved upon our intended Progreſs, but at the firſt daſh we were ſeized by a Conſtable as two ſturdy wandring Vagrants and whipped through a Market-Town, but my Comrade giving me many words of Comfort to keep me from being out of conceit with my new Profeſſion. We paſſed on till we found a Tinker and his Trull ſleeping under a Hedge by the Road, theſe we waked and demanded why they lay ſleeping in ſuch a publick Place, to which they replyed, They had been bitten by a Serpent, a potent Creature, mighty of Strength and of a vaſt Proportion, which put me in no little fear and wonder; but my Comrade underſtanding the Rid-

dle intreated them to rise and shew us his Cave, which accordingly they did, and what should it be but an Ale-house the sign of the Serpent, where they had humming Liquor, and into this Place, when we had first shewed our money, we were admitted and drank so hard till our new Acquaintance fell again to sleep, nor was I less than three parts gone, which my Comrade seeing and having a Design upon the Tinker, he, to make me sober, held me up by the heels with my Head in a pail of Water to the Eyes, which cooling my Brain brought me much again to my self; which done, we ransacked their Pockets and found about the Woman a considerable Parcel of Money, and some about the Man, whereupon we stuck his Girdle round with Tobacco-pipes, fastning likewise to it two Flaggons and a Chamber-pot, as for the Woman we fastened her Coats to the Chair she sate in and so departed: when soon after, mine Host hearing no noise came into the Room, and finding us missing, waked the Tinker and his Doxy, and acquainted them with our Departure, which unexpected News made them start up between sleep and wake and haste out of doors to pursue us, as doubting the worst, not minding how we had hampered them, which made the People in the Street imagine

the

they were distracted, and my Host perceiving his Houshold-stuff dangling at their Breeches, the Tinker running like one that was Dancing the mad Morrice with Low-Bells about him, and his Trull like a Tortoise with a Penthouse upon her Back, he cryed out Stop Thief, and thereupon some Persons who were upon the Road, layed hold of 'em and brought them back again by which means we had time to escape and made directly for *London*, where within few days we arrived.

Thus were the Biters bit, who had bit many,
Which is a lawfull Cheat if there are any.

Passing through *London* we hasted to *Kent-street*, where my Comrade told me there was to be a great Assembly of the Profession, as indeed it fell out, and there we feasted after a splendid manner, neither Wine, Musick, nor any costly Provision being wanting; and there I was adopted into the Ragged Fraternity who changed the name the Gypsies had given me to another more suitable to their own Cant, and so after a sumptuous Repast we all kennelled together Males and Females promiscuously, and early in the Morning each prepared for his Station, having before made them sore Legs

and Arms with unslacked Lime, Rust of Iron and Soap, which by being bound on for a short time makes the Skin come off, rendering the place Raw and looking as if it were mortified, and that they may look black and blew they rubb'd the places with Ox's Blood and Indico, which dryed and baked on makes their Condition appear very deplorable to the Spectators, yet if these Sores be not kept Raw with continual Corrosives, they will heal of themselves in two or three days.

Thus prepared with Crutches and bound up Legs, we repaired with dirty Cloths about our Heads to *Moor-fields* and planted our selves at a distance from each other to catch each others Maundings at the first rebound: as for my part I cou'd not keep my Eyes off my Comrade, and had much adoe to refrain from Laughter to see how to the Life he counterfeited himself Lame, and how being about to lye down he slid to the Earth with his Staff, and then made a hundred distorted Faces as if his Pain had been intollerable, thereby to move Compassion in those that passed by, and to encrease it he set up a pitteous Tone, to which I could not for a long time frame my self, which made him when none observed him, hold up his Crutch at me, thereby signifying he was

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diſpleaſed at my being no better a Proficient, which made me ſtrain my Lungs to ſome purpoſe.

Night being come, we packed up our Awls in order to haſt to our Rendezvous, there to be merry with our Gettings, but as ill Luck would have it, coming along by a Butcher's Shop a dainty piece of Beef hung in my way, the which (whilſt the Butcher's Wife was telling a Goſſips Tale with one of her Neighbours) I decently conveyed from off the Hook, but being ſpied by a Shop-keeper ſtanding in his Shop over the way, he cryed after me in ſuch a manner that I was ſoon taken, and ſo implacable was my Accuſer that ſhe made me carry my piece of Thievery through the ſtreets to the Juſtices, where I having nothing to ſay in defence of my ſelf, the Fact being plain againſt me, my *Mittimus* was made and I ſent to be inveſted with a Stone Doublet, but my Comrade perceiving me to be in the Brambles rubbed off.

Thus the bad practice of my younger years
Brought either Puniſhment or daily Cares.

CHAP. III.

How he was Whipped and Released, and falling again to the Begging Trade he was taken notice of by a Citizen and entertained by him as a Servant; what Extravagant ways he took; how being too Familiar with the Maid-Servant he was reproved by his Mistriss upon a mistake. How he Trappan'd the Maid to Virginia; *and of the Adventure he met with at* Gravesend.

LOng I had not lain in Prison, but I was brought to my Tryal, and being found guilty only to the value of Ten-pence, my Punishment was to Shove the Tumbler, which made me Dance like a Squirrel in a Cage. My Punishment being over a Charitable Gentlewoman who came to release such as lay only for their Fees, set me at Liberty, but whether to go I knew not, especially to be Entertain'd, therefore I thought it was best whilst I could better provide for my self to follow my old Trade of Begging; and now as if Heaven had had a peculiar Kindness for me, to restore me from a wretched to a very happy state, and indeed had been so, had not my Extravagancy made it otherwise. It so happened as I was a Begging,

ging, that a worthy Citizen came by, and casting his Eyes upon me, took at the first view a great Liking to me, and after his having asked me some questions as to my Parentage, place of Birth, *&c.* bid me follow him and he would see me provided for; at first I was a little startled that a Stranger should offer me such kindness, but being altogether out of Love with my Begging Trade, I resolved to venture, and accordingly waited on him home at some distance, proposing to my self if it had been any matter of Kidnapping to have given him the slip, but seeing him enter a stately House with a Shop well furnished I made a Halt at the Door till he called me in and presented me to his Wife, my Mistris, who at the sight of me blest her self, saying, Prithee Sweetheart from what Dunghil didst thou pick up this Ragmallion, this Squire of the Body? to which he replyed, Dear Wife be contented, seeing it is my pleasure that it shall be so, and make no further enquiry into the matter; and thereupon he commanded me to strip and wash my self, which I did with such materials as were provided for me by the Maid-servants, and soon became exceeding white and clear, insomuch that being clad in good Apparel, the whole Family wondered at the sudden alteration; and

from that time my Mistris began to create in her self a good liking and opinion of me, nor was I wanting in my Diligence, to please each Individual, appertaining to the Family, that in a short time I gained the Love and good word of all, which my Master perceiving, advanced me in Business by degrees and at last made me his Accountant and Cash-keeper, and if I had continued faithfull in that Station it had been well for me: But long I had not enjoyed this Benefit but I was by a Neighbour's Man enticed into a Gang of young Apprentices, who at a certain Place, for that purpose appointed, held Night-Revels, and purloyned away their Masters Goods, by way of Exchange, or Barter, amongst themselves, there being one of every considerable Trade, nor were Wenches (that Bane of Youth) wanting, their Feasting and Drinking being even to the height of Luxury and Riot, and these Meetings were generally once a Week, and to be at this Club or Meeting I was obliged to be in Fee with our Chamber-Maid not only in presenting her with such things as I there got in Exchange for my Goods, but in pretending to be deeply in Love with her, often wishing (as dissembling Lovers do) that I was out of my time, if for nothing more than to requite her Kindness,

nefs by Marriage; by which means I ſo entirely won her Affections, that ſhe was altogether at my Devotion, ſitting up after ſhe had ſent the reſt of the Servants to Bed to wait my Return, and ſo it happened that one night, being got merry, I was reſolved to try what Temper ſhe was made of, yet had ſo much diſcretion of thinking it was beſt to accoaſt her when in Bed, for I had heard that longing Virgins, in that Poſture have a kind of yielding even in denial; but ſhe lying up Stairs on the ſame Floar with my Maſter and Miſtriſs, and my Head being Light, after making ſome falſe ſteps, which occaſioned no ſmall noiſe, I reeled into my Maſter's Chamber, miſtaking it for that of the Maids, and with a ſoft Voice cryed, Where art my Dear, which my Miſtriſs hearing and knowing it to be me, for my Maſter was dead aſleep by reaſon of a large Doſe he had taken that Evening, cryed in a like Tone, here, here, which ſoft ſound directed me to the Bed-ſide, where I poured out my Amorous Expreſſions and taking her about the Neck, kiſſed her with ſuch ardent Affection that ſhe had much adoe to diſengage her ſelf, and then haſting to undreſs my ſelf, hold, ſaid ſhe, I have a Bed-fellow already, what I have ſuffered you to do was only as a Tryal to know what you in-

tended, get you gone to your own Bed for this night, and I shall talk with you to morrow: this convinced me I was mistaken, whereupon, in much confusion I retreated, and sneaked down stairs, getting to Bed but could take no rest that night.

Morning being come, up I got, remembring more perfectly what had happened, and fearing every moment my Mistris had made it known to my Master, whose Rage in this Case I feared, I was in a thousand Quondaries whither I had best stay or betake my self to flight: but whilst I was musing upon the matter, my Mistris having left my Master in Bed, came down into the Shop, at whose sight, what through shame and fear, I was in great confusion, making, to avoid her looking in my Face, a hundred pretences to stoop behind the Counter to rectifie disordered Ware, of which confused Bashfulness she taking notice, came up to me, and turning me about said, indeed you take too much pains, you are too industrious, fair and softly goes far, there is yet a great while to night yet, therefore desist a little, I must have a word or two with you; hearing her speak thus mildly when I expected nothing but Reproach and Indignation, I presumed to look up, and finding her smile upon me, I began to make my

Excuse

Excuse for what had passed, intreating her to pardon my Insolence, telling her that my Design was not upon her self, neither would I have dar'd to have presum'd what I did, had it not been by mistake: at this she renewed her Smiles, and gathering from my words that there was some more than ordinary Intreague between the Maid and my self, she pressed me so much in that point that I was forced to confess it, upon which she changed Colour, but after a little pausing, composing her self, she said she must desire me, instead of commands, to withdraw my Affections from her Maid, since her Resolution was to separate us by dismissing her, and that if I needs must Love, I ought to elect a Person whose Merit being grounded on Beauty, Birth and Wealth might render me far more happy; and thereupon she suddenly left me to make what Construction of her words I pleased, nor did I mis-interpret their meaning, for soon after the Maid was turned away and with much Regret took her leave of me, desiring me to be constant, which I promised with many dissembled Protestations.

My Mistriss now began to favour me more than ever, under whose influence and Protection I took greater Liberty than formerly, continuing still my Night Adventures,

tures, for my Master being generally of a drowsie Temper, I feared not to take the Key along with me, knowing if it was discovered my Mistris would interceed and excuse my fault, and though I daily discovered by her Eyes and Actions that she had a more than ordinary Kindness for me, yet to be in the mode of the rest of my Extravagant Companions, I had my Mistris abroad, to maintain whose Cravings and insatiable Avarice I was forced to wreck my Invention, by which my Master's Cash and Stock was not a little sufferers, for if at any time I came empty handed, she would pout and lour like a Winter storm, reproaching and upbraiding me with neglect and unkindness, telling me what Matches she had refused for my sake, adding she had entirely cast her self upon me to the Ruin of her Fortunes, and that now I was so Ungratefull as to slight her who loved me above all the World, and to move me the more, sometime she would force her self to shed Crocadiles Tears and passionately embrace me, and if that prevailed not with me to give lavishly, she would grow into a Pet, and not only threaten to give her self up to another but discover all our Intreagues to my Master, which was the only Thunderbolt she could shake my Soul withal, and when she found

found she had sensibly nettled me, then would she fall to fawning and flattering me. And these indeed are the Tricks and Ways of all Harlots, who indeed are a Snare to Youth, and more to be shunned than a destroying Plague, but being then in the Spring-tide of youthfull Blood I considered it not. But now in the height of my Jollity, a cross Accident happened that had like to have spoiled all; there had been some Civilities more than civily tender'd and carried on between my self and the Maid my Mistris turned away, for when the Wine was in my Head, e'en *Jone* was as good as my Lady, and she by this time finding her self with Child, sent secretly to advertize me of it, and to request me for the saving of her Reputation to Marry her e'er it was too far gone; I sent her words of Comfort, promising to do whatever was for her good, but withal perswaded her to retire a little into the Country to her Friends, & let them know her Husband was an Apprentice, and that it was not yet convenient to declare her Marriage, and I would send her down not only Moneys but all convenient necessaries, but charged her withal to conceal my Name and the place of my Aboad, and when she was Delivered come up again, and then we would tye the lasting Knot. To this, with some

ſome Reluctancy and Unwillingneſs, ſhe yielded, and I kept my word as to my making Proviſion for her, thinking that if the Child dyed I could eaſily ſhift her off to Service: but the contrary happening, it was not long e'er ſhe came with it to *London*, there to claim my promiſe of Marriage, this cauſed me to conſider many things, and caſt in my mind many ways how to rid my hands of Her and the Kinchin, and at laſt I effectually pitched upon one, which was, to ſend them both for a Venture.

To effect my deſign, I told her one day, that if I Married in *London* it would paſt doubt be diſcovered, as likewiſe hers and my diſgrace, but that having a Rich Uncle in *Virginia* I intended for her Credits ſake and my own to go thither, being ſure to be highly welcomed and entertained, ſhewing her ſome Letters I had forged as of his ſending for me to be the Supervifor of his Plantations, with many large offers and advantages, praiſing to the Sky the Fruitfulneſs of the Soil and pleaſantneſs of the Country; at firſt ſhe bogled at my propoſals, on the account of her Child, whoſe Tenderneſs would not endure ſuch a Voyage; but I ſtill preſſing it, threatning to leave her and go my ſelf if ſhe refuſed to accompany me; ſhe, after ſhedding ſome Tears, yielded to

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be at my disposal; so carrying her on Board having before-hand dealt with the Master of the Ship for that purpose, I accompanied her till the danger of any Search was over, and then pretending to go on Shore for my Trunk, which I had purposely left for an Excuse, the Ship instantly set Sail and I saw her no more till many years after I found her in the Possession of a Sea Captain as far as the *East Indies*.

This Act of mine, weary as I was of her Company, did not a little reflect upon my Conscience as cruel and unnatural, softning my hard Heart to that degree that it drew Tears from my Eyes: but whilst I was pensive, fixing my sight upon the Ship as she sailed, a Woman that had sold her Husband to the same Master, accosted me in this manner:

'Tis probable (says she) young Man, that you have lately taken leave of some dear Friend, that thus draws Tears from your Eyes; you are in the right on't (said I) and thereupon, continued she, I have done the like, for my Husband is in the same Ship, therefore be of good comfort Man, Friends must part, and it is better to do so here than at the Gallows, come go along with me and we will Antedote our Sorrow with a Cup or two of brisk Canary, and remove the

the Grief by that means, that disturbs our Peace.

To this motion I readily consented, finding her to be a Jolly Dame, and tolerably handsome, appearing mighty active and airey as if she had been the chief Hand-maid of *Venus*, and as I afterward understood by her, her Husband's greatest Crime, which caused her to send him on this errand, was by reason of his Insufficiency and to give way to new Amours; so that to the next Tavern we went, and there my new Acquaintance called for Wine, and ordered a Supper to be dressed, and the better to drive away the Melancholy which she perceived in me, she introduced a noise of Musick, and that night forsooth, we must pass for a Married Couple, nor did she suffer me to take much rest, so that to requite my Endeavours, the next Morning she ordered a quart of butter'd Sack to be brought up, and a Capon and Sausages to be dressed for our Breakfast, saying, she would never part with me whilst she had a penny, and that I might in all points appear to be her Husband, she presently made me her Steward, by putting a Purse of Silver and Gold into my hand. Of this new Office I shewed a great liking for some time, but having had too much of one Female already, I thought it Imprudence

dence to incumber my self with another, and therefore watching my opportunity whilst she was gone to disburthen Nature, I payed the Reckoning, and getting into the *Gravesend* Barge came to *London* in all speed, with Ten pounds of her Monys in my Pocket, the supposed Price of her late Merchandise: however, I had so much time as to write these Lines and leave them upon the Table, *&c.*

By this you'll hear I'm gone, and wonder much
That I should go, not taking t'other Touch:
Inverted, 'tis all one, for hence you know,
When we both met it was but touch and go;
Too fierce our Loves began, by the Event
Storms and high Winds are never permanent:
Yet for all this I would have drein'd your Fen,
Cou'd that great Work have been perform'd by Men,
I fainting in the Enterprize, gave out,
Your Gold will fit me for another Bout:
Hence be more wise, your fond belief do's show
That you may loose your hidden Treasure too.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

How he Ticed away a Neighbouring Apprentice, and betook himself again to Ramble. The Tricks they used to Recreate themselves with, and of their bad success. The Trick he served his Companion, and what more Mischievous befell himself. How he took a Lodging in Womans Apparel, and how a young Gentleman, mistaking the Sex, fell in Love with him, &c.

ARriving at *Billingsgate*, I hasted to a Tavern where the Drawer was my intimate Acquaintance, and used when at any time I came in Company thither, to bring us Canary instead of White-wine, and sometimes a Bottle in his Breeches over and above; and here I consulted, by reason I had been absent a day and a night, whither I had best return to my Master or take my Ramble, and having my Pockets well lin'd it was not long a determining, for I soon concluded on the latter, and not designing to Ramble alone, I took my opportunity to send for a neighbouring Apprentice, who had often proposed to me what I now determined, and acquainted him with my Intentions, at which he first, though he had formerly

merly been very forward to perſwade me to a wandring Progreſs, bogled, alledging the Diſappointment it would give his Maſter, and the Trouble and Afflictions that it would conſequently heap upon his Friends; but I ſoon removed theſe Scruples, by laying before him the many Advantages and Pleaſures he wou'd find in being freed from Reſtraint, telling him a thouſand pleaſant Stories of my former Adventures to incite him thereto, who being of an eaſie Capacity ſoon conſented to be governed by my Directions, for I ſpared not to applaud to the higheſt degree the Excellency of Liberty and Freedom, laying before him how every Creature coveted it, and that Man, without it, could not be entirely himſelf, there being no greater Burthen to the mind than Reſtraint.

Having by this means prevailed with my Novice to accompany me in my Rovings, I forgot not for our better ſupply, ſtrictly to order him not to come empty-handed, which he ſo far complyed with that I was not a little amazed to ſee how much Treaſure he brought, it not amounting to leſs than two hundred pounds, which we ſoon concluded to turn into Gold for the more eaſie carriage, and the better to prevent diſcovery changed our Apparel, buying

thoſe

those that were very Rich, and selling those we had on for a very inconsiderable value, and now our main business was to study for sutable Recreations, for now being free Denizens of all the World, we hugged our selves in the security of a lasting Joy, yet the fear of being discovered somewhat paul'd our Pleasures, so that lurking in the Out-skirts or Suburbs of *London*, our business all day was Tipling and Gaming, and when Darkness had mantled this part of the World, then we would boldly walk abroad, taking great delight to hire Hackney-Coaches, and when we came near the Place proposed to set us down, we used to give the Coach-man the slip by opening the Door and making our Escapes, when one time attempting it, my Cloak, by a sudden Swing, hung in the Spokes of the Wheel, and by the Motion still wound it self in more and more, which obliged me to unbutton it least my Person should have been Executed upon the Wheel, and although Lackey like I followed the Coach a considerable time, in hopes it would drop off, yet seeing there was no other Remedy, I was obliged to call to the Coach-man to stop, who perceiving what had been intended, after having demanded his Money, which I was forced to give him e'er he would dis-intangle my

Cloak,

Cloak, he told me it would not look like a Livery till it was Laced, and since he had a Lackey by his side he would make him a compleat Footman, and thereupon gave me several Lashes which made me caper like an *Irish* Maurice-Dancer, at which my Companion that stood at a distance, and had been a Spectator of what had passed, laughed heartily; for which, though I said little at that time, I was even with him soon after.

Being baulkt at this kind of mischievous Recreation, our next was, when we found Old Watch-men nodding at their Stands to make Foot-balls of their Lanthorns: but one night being a little Flustered, and mistaking a young Man for an old one, by taking his Neckcloath that hung down for his white Beard with two pecks, he started up and soon overtook us, and more of his Fellow Watch-men coming to his Assistance we were carried before the Constable, who hearing the Complaint of his Janizary against us, we that night had by his order a Lodging provided for us in the Compter, where our greatest fear was that our Masters should find us out: but spending the night in Tipling and day appearing, we were carried before a Justice of Peace, who after a severe Reprimand cleared us, we paying our Fees.

These

These Misfortunes daunted us not in our Progress of Vice, for the next Undertaking was to visit the Houses of Hospitality in and about *Moorfields*, famous in those days for Mother *Cresswell*'s Riding-Admiral of the Frigates in those Parts, and there casting Anchor in the Port of unlawfull Pleasure; no sooner had I, at no small Expence, dallied with one of *Venus*'s Nymphs, who was indeed the most tempting of the Train, but into the Grove of our secret Retirement came a Satyr-like Fellow, whose Nose, like a flaming Beacon, proclaimed an Enemies approach, who laying his hand upon his Basket-hilted Sword, and looking as fierce as the first begotten of *Belzebub*, moved with a more insulting pace than a *Spanish* Don to Chastise an *Indian* Slave, and opening his Mouth, belched out this courteous Salutation: *How dareſt thou, thou Son of a Wh—— presume in this manner to dishonour me, in abusing my Wife without expecting to be sliced into Attoms, but I have something here shall cool your Courage, and thus I set thy hot Blood a-broach till it run to the Lees*: whereupon he offered to make a Pass at me, which I thinking he verily intended, took up a Joynt-stool and with the Flat of it received his Point, pushing him still backward, who being a little feeble in the Hams, by reason of the hot

Ser-

Service he had a long time undergone, at last down stairs he tumbled and my self over him, which my Companion perceiving came running down to my assistance, but finding I had ungrapled and betook my self to my Heels, he run over Bully-Rock who had not recovered his Fall, and soon over-took me, leaving the old Matron of the House to condole her Loss.

Being freed from this Danger which indeed is rather a Trick to get money from Novices who frequent, and yet are unacquainted with those pernicious places, than any thing of Reality: and having tryed another petty House of the like Entertainment, without Meeting with any remarkable Adventure, and it now being towards Evening I passed by with my Comrade a stately House where a very handsome seeming Gentlewoman standing in the Door-way sumptuously attired, dropped me a Curtzie giving me at the same time an Amorous leer and a look, with half a Face, which sort of silent Language I being no ways ignorant of, I made up to her, and accoasted her with a profound Reverence, whereupon she invited us into a very fair Room, entreating us to sit down, and called without, being desired, to her Servants to bring in some Bottles of Wine, taking us by our Garbs; which were

were very rich, to be no less than Persons of Quality, intending to make us pay at no common rate for this Favour.

Having pass'd a Glass or two about, she called for her Lute and sung to it melodiously; the which, together with the Wine, which indeed was very strong, after a little Nodding, cast my Companion into a profound sleep. And now the thoughts of his laughing at me when the Coach-man laced me, and the design I had to be alone with my new Mistris, put me upon a serious consideration how I should get rid of him: but long I had not budg'd my Brains for an Invention, before it came into my mind to send him home to his Master, the which I did by the Approbation of my Mistris, by putting him into a Porter's Basket, after I had privately Rifl'd his Pockets, telling the Porter he was such a Gentleman's Son, bidding him only put him in at the Shop-door and make what haste away he could, least he should be examined from whence he brought him, and upon his return I would plentifully reward him; all this was performed exactly to my wish, yet before I sent him I wrote these Lines and pinned them to his back, *viz.*

Sir,

Sir,

Late I found your Woodcock on the way,
I took him up as one that went astray;
To recompence my Pains I pull'd his Feathers,
Such precious things will warm me in all (Weathers:
His Flesh I would not keep but sent to you,
The Intrails though I have, and so adieu.

How he came off I know not, for I never heard of him after: Being, according to my Wish, rid of my Companion, after much coyness and many excuses, I won my Mistress to suffer me that night to be her private Companion, though not without a Showre of Gold half as large as that *Jupiter* threw into the Lap of *Danae*, yet she delayed going to Bed till it was early in the Morning, telling me there would be time enough for our mutual Recreation, which indeed proved very unpleasant, for we were scarce layed down before three Fellows in Vizors burst open the Chamber-door and entered it, at which my Mistriss leaped out of Bed and gave a kind of a soft Scriech, as fearing to be heard, and thereupon they seized, bound and gagged her, then coming to me they wrapped me up in the Bed-clothes, and drew me, Bed and all upon the Floor, the which although it gave me a damnable

squalch, yet I lay as still as a Mouse in a Cheese, till I heard them talk of throwing the Bed over the Balcony to their Companions, and then, fearing to have my Neck broke, I cryed out so loud, that they seeming scared at my Roaring, took up my Cloaths and with them by a Rope fastened to the Balcony slipped down into the street.

By this time hearing all still, I had courage enough to put my head out, and perceiving they were all gone, I got up and fell to feeling for my new Mistriss, it being very dark by reason of their having put the Candles out, and soon I found her by running my Finger into her Mouth; which indeed at first I thought had strayed, but perceiving (by the Teeth I found there) I was mistaken, I took the boldness to remove the Gagg thence, untying likewise her Hands and Feet, upon which she began to enquire of my welfare, to which I replyed I had received no harm, (not knowing then that my Gold and Cloathes were conveyed away) whereat she seemingly rejoyced, yet finding by the strong scent that proceeded from me I was in a stinking Condition, and had like to have breathed my last at both Ends, she kept at a distance, likening me for the present to *Nebuchadonezer*, battling in his Dung when turned upon the Moun-

tains;

tains; but when she brought a Light and I perceived my Cloaths and Treasure had taken their flight together, I stood like one Thunder-struck for a while; and having a little recovered my Senses, I cryed out I was utterly undone, at which she shewed much seeming sorrow, though indeed the whole Plot was of her own contriving, and I thereupon asking her what I must do in this naked condition, she ingeniously told me she had no Man's Apparel, nor could she come conveniently by any, but with such as she had she would furnish me, and thereupon fetched me a very decent Suit of her own, with all Appurtenances thereto belonging; and although this seemed very odd and strange, yet Necessity urged me to accept it, and being washed, and dressed at all points by reason of my Youth appeared to be a very brisk and likely young Gentlewoman, and was at the first view in the Glass, wonderfully taken with my Garb: but my money being gone, my Mistris, with many Complements, perswaded me to leave her House and go in search of new Adventures; and being about to take my leave I unadvisedly, thinking I ought still to pull off my Hat, instead of a Curtzie layed hold on my Hood, but she ordered me to be carefull in that, till I had an opportunity to

change my Garb, and so with a dissembling Kiss dismissed me, only with an Angel in my Pocket; which she might well afford out of one hundred Pieces of Gold, which of my own and my Comrades I gave her and lost in her House; and of which she afterwards undoubtedly had the greatest share.

Being again upon the Ramble, and night coming on, I took a strict Survey of those Houses that promised good Entertainment; and at last found a Bill upon a Door, where I enter'd and asked for a Lodging, for which I soon agreed, pretending I was just come out of the Country in the Stage-Coach, and that my Trunks and Servants were not yet arrived: whereupon, passing for a Person of no mean Quality, I had no small Respect shewed me, especially by a young half-witted Gentleman, that had more money than understanding, who Lodged in the House, insomuch, that mistaking my Sex, he became passionately enamoured of me, so that he not only treated me, and gave me a Gold Watch; but offering to be rude with me, and I, by that means, being fearfull of being discovered, resolved to make up my Markets with him, and so bid him adieu; when finding him in a merry humour, amidst his many proffers of Favours and Service,

I told

I told him that indeed as affairs ſtood, it was not altogether out of his Power to oblige me, for that I had been hitherto diſappointed of Moneys out of the Country, and therefore, for a preſent Supply, required him to lend me Ten pounds for two or three days, at what time my Trunks, *&c.* would infallibly arrive: glad of this opportunity, away flew my Novice to his Chamber, and inſtantly brought the Sum, proteſting he was mightily obliged to me, forasmuch as I would accept of any thing that was in his Power to ſerve me: and ſo pretending private Buſineſs in the City, I called a Coach, fully reſolving to return no more to my Lodging; and although my Amoriſt was very preſſing to wait upon me, yet alledging my Buſineſs requiring Privacy, I put him off.

CHAP. V.

How he, in Female Disguise, was hired in the nature of a Servant-maid to a Boarding-School, The Frollick he played there, with the Maid of the House and young Gentlewomen. And how for fear of Discovery he made his Escape, &c. and put a Trick upon a young Man of his Acquaintance, &c.

BEing a little Recruited with Money, I causing the Coach-man, for some time, to drive sundry by-ways, that I might not be dogg'd, I alighted, and paying him his Hire dismissed him: after which I went to a Sale-Shop and bought a decent Suit of Apparel, pretending it to be for my Servant Maid, with all other things requisite, resolving to try some Adventure and Exploit in a Female Garb, seeing I had hitherto been successfull; and being fitted with all other necessaries for that purpose, I sold my other Apparel for double the price of that I purchased, and betook me to an old Woman who helped Maids to Services, who was not a little glad of my coming, since a little before, the Mistris of an adjacent Boarding-School had spoken to her for a likely

likely Maid, and having given her her Fee, she soon introduced me, and I not standing upon Wages, but pretending rather a willingness to be taught and instructed. My Mistriss commanded the Wenches, who laughed at my Awkwardness, to instruct me; so that being of a prompt Genius, I soon learned to manage the Kitchen Affairs, so that the Chamber Maid going away, I succeeded her in her Place, and a very handsom, lively brisk Wench was hired into my Place or former Station; who, in a short time after her coming, I found to be very restless and uneasie in her mind, so that one night being in Bed with her, I pressed her to declare the cause of her continual tumbling and tossing about, and soon understood that the Cause proceeded from Love; and finding, notwithstanding the Arguments I used to divert her from it, that she resolved with the first opportunity to give herself up to the Embraces of her Lover, unless she said, had required it without so much as a promise of Marriage: I thought it now a fit time to discover my Sex, and to her no small Amazement, gave her such satisfaction that from that time she doated on me, and followed me about like my shadow, insomuch that the Work being neglected, and my Mistriss in the end perceiving it, turned her

away, at which I was rather pleased than discontented, for having variety of handsom young Gentlewomen, who Boarded in the House, I under my Female Disguise soon gained my Ends of most of them, especially of those, who by their skittishness and running up and down into one anothers Chambers, I found most Buxome. But long I had not this Freedom, enjoying what many a languishing Lover had wished in vain before I discovered a strange alteration in sundry of them, and finding by their Qualms and Pewkings that it was time for me to be packing: I one Evening got my Mistresses Son's Suit of Cloaths, and all materials belonging to it, and thereby assuming my proper Habit, I left my Service without asking for my Wages, marching through all the By-ways imaginable, till I came to an Ale-house where I had formerly been acquainted, and there I happened upon a former Comrade of mine, who, as in the sequel you will find, was in a worser Condition than my self.

This Youngster being an Apprentice, and having a very beautifull Woman to his Mistris, mistaking her Smiles and kind Words for an extraordinary Passion towards him, grew mightily enamoured of her, which he took occasion at her Country-House, whither

ther he was sent by his Master to wait upon her, to let her know not only by word of Mouth, but by putting into her hand a Letten and a Copy of Verses, more at large expressing his Love, telling her that he only lived by her Smiles, and that her Love he esteemed above all Worldly Felicity, and that without Enjoying her he must be miserable: To which she gave Ear with much patience and a smiling Countenance, telling him that within three days he should have a suitable Answer to his Demands, desiring him, in the mean time, to return and betake himself to the Business of his Trade: and accordingly, the third day she came to her *London* House, which made our Youngster tickle himself with hopes his expectations would be answered to his Hearts wish, and when he heard her at Supper pretend an Indisposition and desirous to lye alone, he could scarce contain his Joy from breaking out into a discovery, and the more, when she privately told him he might come to her Chamber about Twelve, where the Door should be purposely left open for his Reception.

Our Youngster thus heightned in his Expectation of enjoying his fair Mistris, thought no space so tedious as this, imagining the Wheels of Time run backward,

and that every minute was an hour, and every hour an Age; yet at length the time came, and up ſtairs he trips from his Lodging in the Shop, as ſoftly as if he had trod on Eggs, when coming to her Bed-ſide, having one Foot in, whilſt he was pouring out his Amorous Expreſſions his Maſter, whom ſhe had acquainted with the whole ſtory, fell upon his Poſteriours (he being then in his Shirt) with a Hand-whip, that perceiving, after a conſiderable number of Laſhes (which made him caper about the Room at a ſtrange rate) how finely he was fooled, he forced through the Leagure and making but one ſtep half down ſtairs, tumbled down the reſt, and afterwards down another pair, his Maſter ſtill following him in the Rear to ſpur him on, till weary with Beating him, he ordered him to go to Bed: But long he had not been there, but getting his Cloaths he made his Eſcape out at the Window, dreading the Conſequence of the next day, more than any other hazard that might befall him.

With this Youngſter, condoling his misfortune, I ſpent the night, and finding his Cloaths were tolerably good, the next morning I perſwaded him to change with me, that it might prevent diſcovery, upon Enquiry after him; which he for a ſmall parcel

cel of Money to boot did. But no sooner had we made this Exchange, e're those that were upon the search for me, came into the House with a Constable, and knowing the Cloaths better than my Features or Physiognomy, they seized upon my Youngster, who had them on his Back, telling him at the same time that he should severely smart for the wrong he had done his Mistris in abusing her House; whereupon he fell upon his Knees, full of Trembling and Amazement, beseeching them, with abrupt Stammerings, like one in his last Agony, not to carry him to his Mistris; for he well knew he had so highly offended her that she would have no Mercy on him. Yet, Deaf to his Entreaties, away they haled him without Bail or Main-prize: which I perceiving, and knowing that they had taken the wrong Gander, payed the Reckoning & sneaked out at the back-door: yet soon after I heard that those that had thus Catchpol'd him, finding their mistake, only took away his Suit, and turned him a-drift in his Shirt and Drawers, to look out for other Rigging.

Having thus narrowly escaped a Danger, I wandered up and down to divers Places, in hopes to find some Adventure, or at least some of my old Companions; but failing in both, my Stock began to be extream low,

low, and at last was altogether exhausted, so that having neither Money nor Friends, I was forced to keep my self alive by Spunging at Billiard-Tables, Nine-pins, and Boards-ends, and was so well known that I was called the Spunge-Master general: but this thin Diet, consisting only of Smoak and Drink, brought me to so weak a condition that I scarce durst venture abroad in windy Weather, for fear of being carried away; and by this Cammelions Subsistance finding a visible decay in Nature, and that life could be of no long durance, unless I found out some other Food to support it, I sometimes debated whether I should again proffer me to my Master, and many other things run in my mind till at last Necessity forcing me, I resolved to set a bold Face on it, choosing rather to be kicked than starved. Whereupon I entered a publick Eating-house and called for Meat, which was brought me, but when the Maid that brought it beheld with what speed and greediness I devoured it, she blessed her self, and going to her Mistris told her she had got Famine it self in her House, and that if I stayed a Week I would undoubtedly cause a Dearth, adding, that I looked like the Beast that has nothing to feed on but Vertuous Women: Notwithstanding, I over-heard her, yet taking

king no notice of it, I called for a Candle to go to my Lodging, having before beſpoke it, but then my Landlady began to clamour at me for her Reckoning, and notwithſtanding all the pretences I made of bringing my Trunks thither, and proteſtations of Paying and Drinking freely, nothing but preſent Money would ſerve her turn, threatning, if I delayed, to ſet her Curs upon me, meaning the Hoſtler and Tapſter, who ſhould worry me to ſome purpoſe, and I believing ſhe would be as good as her word, ſuppoſing the Coaſt clear, reſolved to ſhew her a pair of Heels for it; but as misfortune would have it, running through the Entry, I forcibly ruſhed againſt the Tapſter's Leg, who lay aſleep upon the Bench, which gave my thin Carcaſs ſuch a Recoil, that down I tumbled backward, ſuppoſing, for ſome time, his Foot had gone into my Belly and left the Shoe behind it; being thus over-thrown, I was ſeverely beaten, and my Cloak, which by reaſon of its thinneſs became Tranſparent, was taken for the Reckoning, and I turned out with the loſs of a good part of that little Blood that remained in my Body, to ſeek new Quarters in a Rainey dark night.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

How he fell into extream Poverty, and the Trick he ſerved two Fellows in an Ord'nary. How he was Spirited, and how he ſerved the Kidnapper. How ſetting a Main, graced by a Cloak he ſtole, without having any Money in his Pockets, he won good ſtore: and being weary of Rambling, he Reconcil'd himſelf to his Maſter.

HAving paſſed the night, ever upon a Stall, with little eaſe of Body and leſs of Mind, I compoſed my ſelf the next Morning as well as I could, and reſolving once more to venture for the ſatisfying my craving Appetite. I came about Breakfaſt time to a Baker's Stall, and whilſt I was asking him ſome Queſtions about the Way, I by the vertue of *Hocus Pocus*, convey'd a Penny Loaf into my Pocket, which ſoon after at two Mouthfulls I committed to the keeping of my Belly. When heightned by this ſmall ſucceſs, it growing towards Noon, I entered an Ord'nary, where perceiving, in a little partioned Room, a couple of Fellows with a Plate charg'd with Beef and Turnips, I reſolved to make one amongſt

amongſt them, and ſo reaching over from behind them, I graſped a handfull, crying, Ah Hogs, have I caught you at the Roots? and immediately devouring what I had ſeized, I preſented my ſelf to 'em, ſaying, it was but a Frollick, and that I would preſently ſupply the Defect with my Ord'nary; ſo that falling heartily too, we ſoon made riddance of what was before us, and then they requiring the Boy to bring my Meat, he affirmed that I had not given Orders for any, whereupon they ſtared upon me and grumbled, which I perceiving, ſaid, Gentlemen if yo are angry, take notice that I care no more for it than this, and thereupon I took up their full Flaggon of Ale and turning it cleverly off, marched out of the Door and left them to ſupply themſelves.

Being by this Shift ſatisfied for the preſent, I went loytring about the Streets, to ſee if happily I might meet with any Booty or any Acquaintance upon whom I might faſten like a Burr; when a Fellow, commonly called a Kid-napper or Spirit, eying me, and ſuppoſing me to be an idle Perſon, he made up to me, and after a hundred trivial queſtions, ſuppoſing me to be for his Turn, he very kindly invited me to drink with him, ſeeming much to deplore my poor and miſerable Condition, promiſing

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me, at the ſame time, that before we parted he would ſtudy ſome way to better my Fortune; and after he had a little pauſed, he ſtarted as if it had been out of his firſt Sleep, by reaſon of Affrightment, and then, as one much overjoy'd, compoſing his Countenance, he told me, that now he had hit on it, for it juſt came into his thoughts, that there was a Merchant, an intimate Friend of his, that wanted a Store-houſe Keeper, and if you can, ſays he, but ever ſo indifferently Caſt Accounts I will prefer you to him, and oblige him to give you Forty pounds a year Wages, beſides as much more will fall to your ſhare by Gifts and Preſents to diſpatch Buſineſs, adding that his Ship was fallen down to *Black-wall*, and would ſet Sail to *Virginia* very ſpeedily.

Thus this Raſcal wheedled me, and I very calmly gave him the hearing of it, ſeeming to approve very well of what he had ſaid, giving him, for the greater Aſſurance of my good liking, many Thanks for his Kindneſs; inſomuch that, thinking he had hooked me faſt enough, he told me that ſeeing he could not ſpeak with the Merchant till the Morrow, he would entertain me with all Neceſſaries till that time at his own Houſe, and ſo convey'd me to a dark Smoke-loft in *Wapping*, near the Water-

ſide, where I found ſeveral Perſons covered with a Cloud of Smoak, which proceeded from their Pipes, and ſcented the Place worſe than burnt Feathers, or *Aſſa fœtida*: But in the end, their Pipes being out, the noiſom vapour diſſipated, and it cleared up, at what time I perceived a couple of Gudgeons, that had been hooked in as well as my ſelf, little conſidering the Miſeries that was to attend them in a forreign Clime, not much inferiour to an *Ægyptian* Bondage; and the better to keep them in Ignorance, the whole Diſcourſe was turned upon the pleaſantneſs of the Country, the plenty of Fowl and Fiſh of all ſorts, and that the Work was rather Recreation than Labour; and above all praiſed the good Nature of the Inhabitants, and the plyant loving Temper of the Women, who were eaſie to be gained though never ſuch conſiderable Fortunes. And now for Supper, after many Debates, they provided for our Supply a Diſh of *Poor Jack*, which my new Acquaintance praiſed above the Skies, ſaying that *Neptune* feaſted on nothing elſe on Holy-days, and that the *Indian* Emperours offered them to their Idols; but never till this time were my Teeth baffled, for although I had no ſqeazy Stomack, yet could I neither bite it nor get it down: however, Sup-

per,

per, such as it was, ended, and we having Smoaked for Digestion, we were conducted to our Lodging in a Cock-loft, where our Curtains were old Tilts and Sail-cloth, and our other Bed-Furniture such as had been Strangers to Washing and Airing since the Reign of *Adam* the first, and for softness might compare to a Bag of Brick-bats; yet Necessity urging us, here we pigged in, but had not lain long before we were invaded by an Army of Bugs that assailed us from every quarter of the rotten Bedstead, which made me the next morning looking on my Face in the Ruins of a Glass, conclude I was infected with the Spotted Feaver, but my Patron soon removed that fear, by telling me it was usual for those Creatures to welcome Strangers with that Severity. And scare had we rigged our selves, and begun to Smoak, but in came a Fellow with a Note to my Patroon, as I then conceived, to inform him how the Tyde served to carry us aboard, and indeed so it proved, for no sooner was the Fellow departed, but he told me that the Merchant was now come on Board, and had a great desire to see and speak with me, and that we must go instantly to wait upon him: wherefore we presently went to take Boat, which it seems was ready provided for us, there being a

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Company of Fellows waiting for that purpose, who have Twelve-pence allowed them for every Kid they carry on Board: and now I thought I had finely fooled my self, and was very near turning my intended Jest into Earnest. Whereupon, he perceiving some discontent in my Face, the better to cheer me up, till he had Shopp'd me on Ship-board, told me that he would go with me in the same Ship and take as much care of me as of his Son, which indeed he intended, for soon after I understood he had some time before, sold him for a Slave.

Being in this Quondary, between Hope and Despair, I began to condemn my self of Folly, for putting my self so far into the power of such a Miscreant, which at first I did only to try the Fancy, in hopes to get some Money out of him, so that sometimes I looked about to see whether the Coast was clear that I might give him a fair pair of Heels, at other times I thought to cry out a Spirit, to bring the Rabble about him to worry him, but seeing none near but Watermen, who are mostly Confederates, I found no other Remedy but to enter the Boat, where resolving rather to perish than to be out-witted by such a Rascal, I asked him if he intended to go along with

with me, as he propoſed, to which he anſwered he did, meaning only to the Ship, and there to have left me under the Hatches: I queſtion Sir, replyed I, whither you ever told a Truth in your Life yet, but however now you ſhall tell one, and thereupon taking him about the Neck, I plundged into the Water and pulled him after me, and whilſt thoſe in the Boat expected our Riſing, I catched hold on the ſide of it and pulled it over-whelming on my Head, ſo that now I began to think I was at leaſt in a Whale's Belly, but Boats putting off to our Relief, and I by that means getting from under my dark Canopy, ſwam to Shore, and congregated ſuch a Rabble that my Maſter durſt not follow me; ſo that in the wet Condition I was in, an old Woman taking pity on my Misfortune, entertained me with hot Broth and warm Cloaths, for which when I had refreſhed, as part of ſatisfaction, I made her an Offering of my Love, wherewith ſhe ſeemed well contented.

Having thus made my Eſcape and put of the Voyage deſigned for me, I reſolved not again to attempt my Fortune in that kind, and being yet deſtitute of Money, walking by a Houſe and perceiving the Parlour door open, I ſtepped in, intending if any Body

Body was there to obſtruct me, to ask pretendedly for ſome ſtrange Name, and ſo to make my Excuſe, but finding no Body to obſtruct me, I took the firſt thing that came to hand, which was a genteel Camlet Cloak, and made away with all imaginable ſpeed to the next Gaming Ordinary and there by this means appearing ſomewhat genteel, I adventured to take up the Box, reſolving to run the hazard of a Kicking or Bumping if my Luck failed; but on the contrary, as Fortune would have it, it was my lucky hour; for a great deal of Money being ſet me, and 7 the Main, I nicked it with 8, and ſo continued to win ſeven Hands together, when thinking my ſelf well, I went off with no little Joy, and now my Landlord, who had formerly refuſed or but ſlightly gave me Entertainment, began to careſs me, but I knowing it would be no longer than my Money laſted, and well weighing what a deal of Hardſhip I had undergone ſince I left my Maſter, I began, with the Prodigal, to think it would be beſt to return to a ſetled Life, if I could be accepted and regain his Favour, however, I concluded if he denyed me I would ſo husband my Stock that it ſhould laſt me till I could further advantage my ſelf. And not having forgot my Miſtriſſes Kindneſs

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towards me, I knew if my Application came to her Ear she would be my Advocate; whereupon, I wrote a very submissive Letter, accusing my self of Folly and promising future Amendment, which so wrought upon my good natur'd Master, that he without delay gave order to the Letter-bearer to bring me to him, when accordingly I went, being by this time well Habited, and was received with much Joy, especially of my Mistris, who in a tender and kind manner Chid me for leaving my Master, and especially for taking my self from her Presence.

CHAP. VII.

How he behaved himself after his Reception, and how his Mistris received him into her private Favour. The Fright, thus by the force of Imagination, seized upon his Master, and how he was convinced of his Error, &c.

BEing thus re-instated, to requite my Master's Kindness, I used double Diligence, altogether renouncing the Company of my Brother Snipers, as resolving now

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to Ship by my self, growing seemingly Religious, the better to set a good Face upon my pretended Reformation; whilst my Mistriss Eyes were more and more fixed upon me, and she endeavoured, by all the dumb Signs and Tokens, which are accounted the silent Languages of Love, to let me know she had a more than ordinary Passion for me; yet she perceiving me dull or at least not willing to understand her. She came to the Counting-house one day, where I was Writing, and leaning upon my Shoulder, asked me what I was doing nothing said I but Writing, Nothing I believe, replyed she, nor never will do any thing but draw up Blanks, without ever filling up the Spaces, and so abruptly left me to gather from it what I thought convenient, nor was I such a Novice but I soon understood the meaning.

Soon after my Mistriss thinking I could not be altogether a stranger to her Desires, pretending to go abroad to visit a Gentlewoman that lay sick, got leave of my Master for me to wait upon her, and though I lead her yet I wondered not a little whither she was leading me, for we passed through a great number of By-Alleys and Lanes, till we came to the Water-side; at what time she bid me call for the next

Oars,

Oars, and so putting off, she order'd the Water-men to Row to *Fox-hall*, where Landing, we went directly to the *Spring-Garden*, and there betook our selves to one of Love's secret Alcoves, where my Mistris freely declared, how from the first time she saw me she had a deep Affection for me, and although she had strove with her self all she could to suppress or stifle it by objecting our difference in age and condition, yet it more and more prevailed, and she was no longer able to resist the prevailing Passion, charging me at the same time not to slight her at any time for her free Confession, nor that the Favours she shou'd bestow upon me should puff me up with Pride, but to be constant in making her sutable Returns of Love as I tender'd my future Tranquillity, and would avoid the effects of an injured Lover's Revenge. This and a great deal more she urged, to which I answered that she so highly obliged me, by casting her Favour of this kind upon me, that I must now make it the chiefest Business of my Life to do her Service, vowing a lasting Constancy and Fidelity; and so after many Caresses and Love Endearments, she melted in my Arms, and I making use of that opportunity, gave her the satisfaction she required. And so having plenti-

fully feasted our Senses with Banquetting and Delight, we returned home, where I improved my double diligence, enjoyning my eyes to a severe Pennance, by not so much as looking on the dear Object they so much admired, when any one was in the way; for indeed she was very beautifull, and I concluded, by the prudent Conduct of her other Actions, that Love was her tendereſt part, and that being cast into the Arms of my Master by her Parents, he being in years, she found not those Joys she expected.

The Ice being thus broken, there now remained nothing but Privacy, which we managed not so secretly, but our whole Design had like to have taken Air, for my Mistriss returning through my Master's Chamber from my Bed the Boards cracked so loud with her weight as if they had envied our happineſs, and conspired to betray our Love Intriegue, so that my Master awaked, but seeing something move all in white, for her Chamber was the next beyond his, he soon shrunk under the Bed-clothes, suggesting to himself such strange and ridiculous Fancies as made him, through fear, begin to breathe his last at both Ends, and fall to exorcising the Evil Spirits he supposed had surrounded him: but in the end, hearing all still, he took so much courage as to put his

head out of the Bed, and with a lamentable voice call to me to ſtrike a Light, and bring him a Candle inſtantly; which put me in no little fear that he had made ſome Diſcovery, but finding him in a ſhaking Fit, and that my Miſtriſs was ſafely got into her Chamber my Fears abated, and I took the boldneſs to ask him what was the matter, Oh! ſaid he trembling and ſtammering, ſtill looking about him wildly, as if ſome ſtrange Apparition had been preſent, I have ſeen the fearfulleſt ſight imaginable! for waking before my uſual time, at firſt I only perceived the Boards to crack, but preſently after I heard Chains rattle, and Stools were flung forcibly about the Room, whilſt the Bed and I in it danced the Morrice up and down as if a *Scotch* Bag-pipe had been played upon by a *Northern* Witch; ſometimes I was pulled out of the Bed and layed on the cold floor, and then toſt in again like a Dog in a Blanket, till at laſt, having ſome reſpite, I adventured to peep out, but my Eyes had no ſooner recovered the top of the Bed-cloths when, O horrible! I ſaw ſtanding by me a compoſition of meer Bones, with a Shrow thrown over his ſhoulder like an *Iriſh* Brachior or a *Scotch* Plad with a lighted Tape in one hand and an Hour-glaſs in the other what uſe he made of his Light I know no

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for Eyes he had none but deep holes where they ſhould have been, when grinning at me with his Teeth, for he had no Lips, and ſhaking his Chains he left me, which put me into ſuch a Fright that I had like to have ſhot out, like a Pudding in a Bag, all that was within me.

At this Relation I heard my Miſtriſs, who hearkn'd to it, notwithſtanding the fear ſhe had been in of a Diſcovery, laugh heartily; nor could I well refrain, conſidering how ſerious my Maſter was in the Relation, when all his fear and the whole ſtory that attended it proceeded from meer Imagination, but proved ſo croſs to our Love, that for a long time after he lay with my Miſtriſs and could ſcarcely be perſwaded to paſs through that Chamber alone, though in the day time, nor could he doe it without a Fit of trembling; and indeed we had much adoe to make him believe his Fear proceeded from Fancy only, till another Accident happened, which was our Cats being catched by the Tail with a Tenterhook on the top Beam of the Cellar whilſt ſhe was ravening after the Meat that hung there, ſo that not being able to recover her ſelf, by reaſon her feet had ſlipped, ſhe made a doleſull cry, which ſet the Dog a howling, and that made my Miſtriſs, imagining there

were Thieves in the House, arise, and call me up, for my Master fell again into his former Fears, and durst not move, so we together marched down, and soon found the cause of this nocturnal Disorder, though at the beginning it would have made one laugh to see how I strained courtesie with my Mistriss who should go first, but she reproaching me with Cowardice, and meaness of Spirit, I boldly adventured, and now we brought the Cat to my Master, and shewed him the cause of his Fear; who, upon our entering the Room, his Head being yet under the Bed-cloaths, taking us to be the Thieves, and that my Mistriss and I were already dispatched, cryed out, Save my Life and take all I have: but not to let him continue in that perplexity, we soon discovered to him his mistake, and, in some measure cured his former Fears, so that within a night or two he returned to his Chamber, and my Mistriss and I had the freer opportunity kindly to converse with each other.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

How being his Masters Cash-keeper he was inticed by Clippers, and how he rejected them. Their Tragical End, &c. *How he Broke his Master and betrayed him to a Prison, where he dyed. And how his Mistriss dyed for Love of him,* &c.

BEing thus in favour with my Mistriss, she failed not to supply me with Monies over and above what I supplyed my self withal, and would be sure to make an Apology for me to my Master when I stayed unseasonably abroad; so that finding all things to succeed according to my wish, I proceeded to the excess of Evtravagancy, keeping my Brace of Geldings at Livery, and had at the place of my Rendezvouse, several Changes of Apparel to prevent discovery; and for all this I layed up good store of Coin, as imagining this Sun-shine could not always last; so that being perceived, in some Places I frequented, to be full of Money, a 'Prentice with whom I kept Company, undertook with a Clipper, that had narrowly marked it, to bring me acquainted with him, and accordingly he did, but I who

had no mind to be hanged, refuſed utterly (upon the motion) to deal with him, though he layed many ſeeming advantages before me, and therefore as my abſolute denial, I ſent him theſe Lines.

Sir,

You ſeemingly do proffer fair, but know,
Hanging attends ſuch Kindneſs as you ſhow:
The hope of Profit tempts me, loſs of Life
O'er-powers Perſwaſion, and ſo ends the ſtrife.
Had I two Lives, my deeds ſhou'd make it known
How little I wou'd care to hazard one;
But having ſolely one, I will not try
Its loſs, as yet I have no mind to dye:
Ceaſe then, and let your Fancy ſuit with mine,
We'll plot no Treaſon but to get good Wine, &c.

Soon after I had ſent theſe lines, I heard that my new Acquaintance with divers of his Accomplices were taken, tryed, found guilty and executed; and a Fellow that had ſeen me with him, and was a hanger on to the Gang, came to me and in private told me, that in Love he came to inform me that I had been taken of for a notorious diſperſer of clipped and counterfeit Monies, and that there was a Warrant out againſt me: but perceiving he brought me this ſeeming kind Advice only to fright me out of a ſpill

of

of Mony, I did not ſuffer him to go away unrewarded, but buffeted him till he bore the marks of my Diſpleaſure, and ſo I heard of him no more. And now my Profuſeneſs began to make my Maſter's ſtock bend till both Ends began to meet, and his Creditors grew ſo clamorous that he durſt not appear publickly, which I perceiving, and knowing he could not hold out long, reſolved to puſh him on to ruin; and ſo hiring a private Ware-houſe, I conveyed, as opportunity would give me leave, his beſt Goods thither: and now being terrified with the fear of a Priſon, he conſulted with me what was to be done, and although I adviſed him to ſtay and compound with his Creditors, yet he at laſt, reſolved to pack up his Goods that remained, and take my Miſtriſs with him to *Ireland*; the laſt word ſo ſenſibly afflicted me, that I could not chooſe but let fall ſome Tears, which he thinking I did to condole his misfortune, his Tears trickled down his Cheeks to bear mine Company: and well, ſaid he, now I ſee thou loveſt me as well as thou hitherto haſt ſerved me faithfully.

My loathneſs to part with my Miſtreſs, whom indeed I loved entirely as a Miſtriſs, put my Invention upon the wrack how to ſtop his Journey, and finding but one way to do it, I got the exact time of his

Departure by the means of my Mistriss, and acquainted his chief Creditor with it, who waited where he was to take Horse for *West-Chester* before day: and just as his Foot was in the Stirrup presented him with a brace of Serjeants, who conveyed him to the Counter, from whence, (finding no possibility of composing his Business,) he removed himself with a *Duce facias* to *Ludgate*, and from thence, through Grief, Death brought a *Habeas Corpus* and removed him into the other World.

My Master being thus dead, and I having furnished me a Shop with his Money and part of the Goods I had purloyned away, my Mistriss brought me the remainder that she had saved from the Knowledge of the Creditors, and so we lived together till she found her self with Child, and then she earnestly pressed me, for the saving of her Credit, to Marry her; but still I put her off with divers excuses, for although I loved her, yet I loved her not well enough for a Wife. But her Belly increasing, and something remaining to be done for the Credit of us both, I carried her into the Countrey, where falling in Labour, she would not suffer me to stir from her, and her pains growing excessive, she catched my hand in hers, and grasping it fast, said, in a soft Tone, Farewell, I dye for thee, thy last Unkindness

kindneſs in not performing thy promiſe (meaning to Marry her) and not returning Love anſwerable to mine, hath untimely ended my days; and thereupon fetching a groan ſhe cryed, Love my memory ſince I dye for Love of you; and accordingly ſhe kept her word, for ſhe ſpoke no more, but breathed out her laſt; and although all means were uſed to ſave the Child yet it could not be done: this I muſt confeſs did not a little trouble me, yet in the end I drowned my ſorrow in Wine, and having ſeen the Funeral performed returned to *London*.

CHAP. IX.

How he Married a Wife after he had Set up for himſelf with the Money and Goods he had purloyned from his Maſter; and how ſhe Horned him; and of the Revenge he took. How Breaking he went for Ireland, &c.

BEing thus rid of my Maſter and Miſtriſs, and ſeated in a Shop of my own, pretty well furniſhed, and Trade coming, in I ſpent to exceſs of Extravagancy, being ſeldom in my Shop, ſo that my Stock wanting

its former supply began to diminish, nor had some failed, by reason of my long absence in the Country, to conclude that I was gone off, which, by degrees, raised such a jealousie amongst my Creditors that they began to be very earnest with me for their Money, so, finding there was no way but to set a good Face on it, some I delayed with good words and fair promises, others that would not stay I was obliged to pay; and in fine, I still'd their Clamour, yet thought it time to take up, which for a while I did, diligently keeping my Shop, at which wonderfull Reformation my Neighbours did not a little admire. And now I had several Matches proffered me, one of which I pitched upon, finding her Parents very wealthy, and by my noble Courtship and modest Behaviour, I soon gained upon her Affections, and in a little while after we were Married; when, althô she went for a spotless Virgin, and seemed very modest, and reserved, I found she had been dancing before-hand, and in six Months she was delivered, which when I somewhat heinously resented, the old Sinner of a Midwife, who was her Creature, would needs perswade me it was always usual with the first Child.

When my Lady was got up again, our House was on a sudden strangely divided,

for to prevent my crying Whore first, she would ever be the loudest, so that at last, seldom a day passed but the Stools, Trenchers and Pewter flew about the House, and although in the time of Wooing she was for the most part silent, and when she spoke her words must be, in a manner, forced from her; now on the contrary, she was continually as a storm, and frequent were her Complaints to her Parents, which Alienated their Affections from me, so that they sought my Ruin by many ways, laying an Embargo on that part of her Portion, which as yet remained unpayed, and she as she found opportunity, purloyned my Goods and Mony from me, and gave me only Horn Ware in exchange, which at last I discovered to my own Disgrace.

I had a long time suspected my Wife had a private Friend, yet she so cunningly managed the matter that I durst not charge it upon her without a fuller discovery, least she should grow more outragious and reproach me with a conceited Jealousie; wherefore to gain a clearer knowledge of it, I caused my self one Evening to be brought home in a Porter's Basket as dead drunk, and was received by my Wife without any ill Language, she and her Maid, who was privy to her Amours, making what hast they could

to

to get me to Bed, yet they had no sooner left me but I crept softly to the stair-head and there lay perdue, when after a short time, after the Maid (who had been sent abroad to give her Gallant a Relation of my Condition) returned, I heard one soft knock at the Door, upon which it opened as gingerly; nor did they long delay their intended Pleasure, which when I perceived by Amorous Sighs and short Breathings, I crept down stairs with my drawn Sword, thinking to have dispatched them at one Pass, but erring in the dark I run it through the fleshy part of their Thighs and pinned them together in the posture, whereupon they cryed out most lamentably, begging for Quarter, which caused the Maid to come running in with a Candle, and seeing what had happened, fearing that further Mischief might ensue, she let in the Watch, and I thinking my self, now my Fury began a little to abate, sufficiently revenged, suffered them to carry off the Spark, and permitted the Maid to fetch a Chyrurgeon for his Mistriss; and the next day I made a Relation to our Parents of all that had happened, who fearing further mischief, were content or at least seemed to be contented to take her home and rid me of her. And soon after finding my Creditors begin again to grow

grow clamorous, and knowing I had not wherewithal to satisfie them, I concluded it was best to make the best of my Market, and pack up my Awls whilst I might put them in my Budget, so that under pretence of selling my Goods to Country Chapmen, I conveyed away all that were considerable, sending what I could not turn into Money to *West-chester*, in order to Ship them for *Ireland*; which accordingly I did, but a just Judgment pursued my Fraud and many Villanies, the Ship wherein I sent them being Cast away, and my self going in the Pacquet Boat narrowly escaped the fury of the Ocean, being driven out to Sea and tossed in a Storm for many days; but at last I arrived at *Ringsend*, and there Landed. These being the notorious Transactions of the First Part of my Life, I shall now proceed to that which I may well term the Second Part, *&c.* and so go on by gradation to the rest.

The End of the First Part.

THE SECOND PART:

CONTAINING

The further PROGRESS of the

English Rogue

OR

Witty Extravagant;

In the LIFE of

MERITON LATROON.

Giving an Account of his various Exploits, Success and Misfortunes, *&c.*

CHAP. X.

How, after having escaped a dreadfull Storm and lost all his Goods, he landed in Ireland, *and there losing his Money he is reduced to extream Poverty: He finds a Groat, and in the spending it is discanted upon, yet Entertained: And of his Adventures in that Country.*

HAving escaped the danger of the Sea, though with only the small Stock of Money I had in my Pockets I Husbanded it as well as I could, yet

yet it lafted not long, for going from *Ringsend* to *Dublin*, I met there with ſo many Rooks and Sharpers that it ſoon grew to a low Ebb, which my Landlady as ſoon perceived by the abatement of my Expences, and the delays I made in diſcharging what was upon the Score; and although I uſed many flams to put her off, by telling her I expected great ſtore of Goods and Monies every fair Wind, yet ſhe was ſo cunning that ſhe gave little ear to it, and leſs credit; by which means I found my ſelf forced to take another method, which was to pretend Love to her, ſhe being then a Widow, at which ſhe would laugh till her ſides cracked, yet at the end of her laughter, the burthen was, Come, come, away with theſe Fooleries, and give me my Money; and when I replyed all that I enjoyed and my ſelf too were properly hers, and that when ſhe pleaſed ſhe might take them into her Poſſeſſion: her Anſwer was, No, no, my youthfull days are paſt, and it is now time for me to look Heaven-ward, wherefore let fall your Suit, and pay me my Monies.

Being in this diſtreſs, and finding words would do nothing, I reſolved to accoaſt her in Bed, thinking then ſhe would not refuſe my proffered kindneſs: but coming to her Bed-ſide in the dark, and feeling for her Face,

Face, pouring out my Amorous Expressions, I caught hold of a Man's Beard, who thereupon supposing some damned Spirit came to shave him and rob him of his Wash-balls, he would have cryed, but fear had so locked up his Voice that he could only say, in a soft Tone, *In the Name of*——— *What art?* I am, said I, with an audible Voice, and thereupon she started out of her sleep, no Ghost but a living Man, and a witness of your Letchery, to which purpose I came hither to be fully satisfied in what, for some time past, I more than barely suspected; and as for your part Madam, your youthfull days are past, but your Wantonness will last for ever. I had proceeded, but that they prayed me to depart and be silent, and the next morning they would discourse with me to my satisfaction, which was the thing I aimed at; and to be brief, my Landlady forgave me all I owed her, and her Gallant, upon a solemn promise not to discover what I knew, presented me with Ten pounds *Irish*, which in *English* is Seven pounds Ten shillings; and soon after either to make my Landlady further amends for the Favours he had received, or out of shame to be so taken, he married her and invested her in a good Estate.

Having

Having gotten this Money, I took my leave and trudged away to the next Gaming Ord'nary, and falling in to Hazard, with Toppers, Palmers and Hey-boys, I loſt it almoſt as ſoon as I had gained it, and ſo again fell into extream Poverty; inſomuch, that living, for the moſt part, upon Tobacco and Water, I had faſted ſo long from neceſſary and ſubſtantial Proviſion, that I had almoſt forgot to eat; for if by chance, and indeed it was but ſeldom, I came where Meat was, and I attempted to eat, my Mouth knew not the meaning: nor could I ſleep ſoundly, but when at any time I nodded, I dream'd of nothing but Feaſts and great plenty, when as methought I offered to eat, the Diſhes and Cups were ſnatched from before me, and in the end, I became a meer Skeleton, having nothing but skin to cover my Bones, which made me ſtudy ſome way to repair this great decay of Fleſh, knowing I could not long ſubſiſt in ſuch a Condition. But whilſt I was muſing and caſting about for an advantagious contrivance, glancing my Eyes downward, I eſpy'd a Groat at my Foot, which put as much Joy in me as if I had been Maſter of the *Spaniſh* Plate Fleet, nor ſtood I longer to pauſe, but thanking my good Angel, away I trudged as faſt as my feeble Legs would carry

carry me to the next Red Lettice, and declaring the largeneſs of my Stock, demanded as much Proviſion as might be afforded for it, but they perceiving me look ſo wild and thin began to ſtart and retire from me, not knowing what to make of me, but there being a Doctor in preſence, who looked narrowlier on me than the reſt, he told them that I was, paſt doubt, the Work of ſome Mortal, who had artificially skinned the Skeleton of a Man and cauſed it to move by *German* Clock-work, which made me ſtart up in a great Rage, though ſcarce able to ſtand, through faintneſs, to demonſtrate that I was not what they took me for; at which all but Mr. Doctor fled, and he would have been gone, had not the Gout locked him in his Chair, yet I perceived he was under ſome Conſternation as I approached, by ſaying with a trembling voice, ſpeak, what art thou? to which, with a hollow Tone, as if I had ſpoke in a Vault, or the next Room, I am, ſaid I, a living Man, why then, replyed he, thou wouldſt have Fleſh; and then proceeded to ask me many impertinent Queſtions, as how my Eyes came to be afraid of my Noſe, and to hide themſelves in the Nape of my Neck, at which I could have laughed heartily, but that my Lungs would not comply: However, in the end,

I ſatisfied

I satisfied him, I was reduced to the Extremity he saw me in, by the Country Disease, hiding thereby my Poverty: and in conclusion, I had both Meat and Physick, and my Landlady, at the Doctor's instance, put me to Bed, and provided me Caudles and warm Broths, so that in a Week or Ten days I began to come to my former Complection, to the no small wonder of my Landlady, who now began to smite with her blear Eyes, and left no ways untryed to bring me to her Lure, to which at length, through necessity, I was forced to stoop, and by that means so gained upon her, that all she had was at my Devotion, being never better pleased than when she could with Money, or whatever I demanded, pleasure me. And now being well Apparelled, and having my Gelding at command, I resolved to visit the Country, when coming to a small Brook, I perceived a handsome young Lass coming on the other side, which made me stay to see how she would get over, who, according to the custom of the ruistick *Irish*, tucked up her Coats to her Waist, leaving all from her middle downward naked, and so came pladding through, which sight so tickled my Fancy, that in broken *Irish*, as well as I could, I entered into discourse with her, and at last got her into a Wood by the Road-side, she stand-

ſtanding very gently to be handled, in which they differ from the Modeſty of *Engliſh* Laſſes; but when I went about to proceed further, and ſhe perceived my drift, ſhe ſet up her Throat and cryed out inceſſantly Whillallalloo, when immediately three Fellows with Flails, Prongs and Staves, came running to her Aſſiſtance and fell upon me with ſuch fury, that never poor Lover ſuffered ſo much by the Frowns and Diſdains of the moſt ſcornfull Miſtriſs, nor had I had a Bone left whole about me had not my Horſe by winching and kicking made good my Rear, ſo that bethinking my ſelf of a Pocket Piſtol charged only with Powder, I drew it and fired full in the Face of him that was drubbing me over the ſhoulders, who ſuppoſing himſelf ſhot through the Head, fell down as dead through fear, which the other ſeeing, made their Retreat with what ſpeed they could, nor did I purſue 'em, but made what haſt I could to eſcape.

Being got clear of theſe mercileſs Knaves, I rid on five miles further, when it growing late, and I meeting with no Houſe but a Country Farm-Houſe about the height of an ordinary Pig-ſtye, graced with a Chimney, which there is counted as great an Ornament as a Turret to a Noble-man's Houſe,

I ente-

I entered, but found the Kitchen, Parlour, Dining-Room, Pantry, Cellar, Hen-roost, Stable and Lodging Room all on a floar, the Hay-loft only being over-head, so that my Horse and I were conducted in in much Pomp, and when Supper came to the Table it consisted of half a dozen Leeks, a Loaf of the colour of Rhind of Bacon, and a handfull of Bay Salt, which the good Wife praised above any other Diet, bringing me Drink answerable, being no other then water with certain Herbs boiled in it, and a Pipe not half the length of her Nose, for the blackness of it might for ought I know be the Relict of the first Pipe made in that Kingdom; then having taken some Snuff, which was the best thing I met withall, I desired to go to Bed, when at the first call came a lusty Wench, with a great bundle of Rushes in her Arms, and spread them in due order, covering them with a Rug, and so my Landlady taking me by the hand, conducted me to my Lodging, there being only between me and the Fire some wattles of Straw, our Pallace door being a Hurdle: Then were introduced into another Partition through my Bed chamber the Cows, Sheep, Hogs and Geese, who, out of Civility to me, had for some time been obliged to wait at the Door. All the Family being within,

I layed

I layed me down, out of Complement, only in my Shirt, Stockings and Drawers, but as for my Landlord, my Landlady and their two lusty Daughters, they stripped stark naked and came under the Rug to me, it being it seems the custom amongst those Boorish People: and although the young Ones were plump and tolerably handsome, yet my late Adventure coming fresh into my mind I lay as still as a Dormouse. But early the next morning getting up, I discharged my Reckoning, and returned home, where to my great grief, after I and a Blade I met had stolen a Hogs-head of Claret, off the Custom-house Key, by laying one filled with Water in the Room of it, I found my kind old Landlady dead, who it seems had called upon me to the last, yet I was not altogether frustrated, for perceiving something in her hand, fast clenched, I opened it and found Ten pieces of Gold, which she had undoubtedly reserved for me as her last Legacy; but seeing nothing further coming, I betook my self again to Ramble, yet finding little to be got thereby, I pitched upon a Project to feign my self a Batchelor, and going in a very handsome Garb, I fell to courting divers Widows and old thrifty Maids who had layed up their Monies gotten in Service as Baits to catch Husband, and

by

by Marrying ſome and luſtily Promiſing others, I got a conſiderable Parcel of Money: but this practice taking Air, I thought it beſt to be gone before I was layed up, and ſo Re-Shipp'd my ſelf for *Weſt-cheſter*, where in a ſhort time I ſafely Arrived.

CHAP. XI.

How being diſcovered for defrauding Maids and Widows, under pretence of Wooing. He is forced to betake himſelf for England. *How he Cheats his Landlord upon the firſt Arrival of Ten pounds, and ſets up for a High-way-man, and the pleaſant Adventures he met with,* &c.

HAving taken up the beſt Inn in the Town, and ſpending liberally, I was here looked upon as an extraordinary Gueſt, of which I reſolved to make my advantage; ſo that taking my Hoſt in a merry Humour when I had heightned him with Canary, I told him I was an *Iriſh* Grazier, and had about 200 Head of Cattle coming over, which I expected the next fair Wind, but the Wind ſtanding croſs I was not diſappointed of them but of Monies I likewiſe expected,

to

to furnish my present occasions, and that if he would lend me Ten pounds for five or six days I would return it him with many Thanks and considerable Interest, which he at first scrupled, but in the end considering I had a good Mare under me, and looked like a substantial Man, and might prove a considerable Guest upon my often coming over with Cattle, as I told him I intended, he fetched me the Summe required, taking only a Note under my Hand for the full payment: and having now furnished myself with a Sword, Pistols and all other accoutrements for the Road, I watched my opportunity early one morning whilst the Hostler was gone to Air a Gentleman's Gelding that stood at Livery, and got my Mare Saddled, when without taking any leave or paying my Complement of Departure to my Host and Hostess, I Mounted and bid adieu to my Quarters.

I had not Rid above Twenty miles of the *London* Road since I left *Westchester*, but three well mounted Persons passed me, who were, as I soon understood, the Vaunt-Guard, there being as many more in the Rear; and at the bottom of the Hill facing about they bid me Stand, being soon reinforced by the Rear, so that now I was enclosed on every side; when one of them clap-

clapping a Piſtol to my Breaſt, commanded me, with a volley of Oaths to Deliver, or I was a dead Man; and now having no other ſhift, ſmiling on him, I told him I was or would be one of the Society; which the reſt hearing, came up cloſe, and fell however, to examining of my Pockets, where I had a conſiderable quantity of Money; which I, to ſet a better Face upon the matter, told them I had taken a little before as a Booty, when ſhewing them, at the ſame time, my Piſtols in my Boots and Pockets; they believed me, and ſo we Rid together to an hot ſome diſtance thence, where, when they had pulled off their falſe Beards, falſe Wens and Scars, with other Deformities, I was amazed to ſee 'em changed to quite other Men, and could not have known them to be the ſame had I not accompanied them. And here we drank and feaſted highly, and I, as a younger Brother, received Inſtructions how to behave my ſelf in this my new Undertaking, though too tedious here to be recited.

Having ſpent laviſhly, and our Stock beginning to ſhrink, we agreed the next day to go out upon the Purchaſe, and I being ſent out for a Scout, and lighting upon a ſingle Perſon, reſolved to try my firſt experiment of this kind, and therefore having

paſſed him, I ſtayed at the Bottom till he overtook me, and there I bid him Stand and Deliver his Money or he was a dead Man, at which he fell into a fit of Trembling, and would have willingly done it, but his Stone Horſe, on which he Rid, ſcenting my Mare, fell to capering and leaping at ſuch a rate, that furiouſly Wheeling off he came in the Rear of me, and leaping up gave me ſuch a blow on the ſhoulder with one of his Feet that I thought, for a time, he had beat my Arm off, and although I diſmounted him and wheeled about very ſwiftly, yet ſtill he was upon me, whilſt the poor Innocent Gentleman, fearing he ſhould too much provoke me by delay and the unrulineſs of his Horſe, cryed out, in a doleful Tone, Worthy Sir, take what I have and ſpare my Life; but I being thus hardly put to it, and fear having rendered me uncapable of doing the office of a Thief, I was forced to put Spurs to my Mare and fly with all ſpeed, whilſt the Horſe followed upon me as faſt, and was even at my heels, in which flight a Piſtol went off in my Pocket, and I verily ſuppoſing my Adverſary had fired upon me in my Rear, I roared out for Quarter, whilſt he (on the contrary thought I fought *Parthian* like, and fired flying) often cryed out, as you are a Man

ſhew

shew your self merciful, often calling to me to stop, which made me Ride more furiously, supposing he had called to the Country People to stop me: yet at last we came both down together upon his Horse's leaping my Mare; when fearing he would be upon me and cut my Throat, I started up and found him upon the Run, but soon overtook him, and made him my Prize without any resistance, and being possessed of what he had, I fell to domineering like a Constable over a Hedge-braker; and Sirrah, said I, if ever I meet you again and you prove thus obstinate or dare to resist, I'll tye you to a Tree, in some obscure Place, where none shall hear your dolefull cryes, and feed you for six days, with pieces of your own Sword, and Gun-powder and Bullets delivered into your Mouth through the Muzzle of your own Pistol. It pleased me mightily to see how pitifully and submissively he looked, for had he look'd but stern, I durst not have uttered what I did: However, I bound him, cut his Horses Girths, and so left him to the next Passenger to unloose: at which time my Comrades, who had from a Coverture of Trees seen all that had happened, fell to jearing and flouting me at a strange rate, till such time as I was forced to stop their Mouths with the Booty. But

soon after I was somewhat even with them, for they taking the hooting of an Owl for the Cry of the Country after them, fled sixteen miles before they durst adventure to stop, and indeed a small matter scares the most Resolute of them; for being attended with a guilty Conscience, and acting against a Country Law, each Bush that ruffles on a sudden startles them.

This Evening, just about the close of the day, we set upon two Persons, somewhat different from the former, for instead of yielding immediately as we expected, they made such a stout resistance, that had we not over-powered them in number and subdued them by main strength, they would have sooner dyed upon the Place than have parted with their Money: but however, after a long contending, we bound them and took what they had, and so crossing the Country, for fear of a pursuit, by divers by-ways, we came to a private Village, in which was a kind of an obscure Inn, and there we Revell'd it all that night, and spent (by reason of our Host's scoring double, what we had, and bringing in Wine and other things without calling for, as also in Bribing the Servants to silence) most of our Booty; and so the next day we were forced to set out afresh, in pursuit of a new

pur-

purchase. And so indeed it fares with all unlawfull Enterprizes of this kind; they for the most part adventuring their Necks for the advantage of others, seldom saying any thing to help them in their greatest necessity.

Being by this time better acquainted with these Exploits, and fearing, by being in so great a Gang, to be discovered by some that formerly knew me, I, pretending to pay a Visit to an Uncle of mine, not far from our Rendezvouse, found an opportunity for some time to absent my self from them; in which space I met with several Prizes, that plentifully supplied me with Gold and Silver: when one Evening Riding along the Road, I espied a brisk Country Lass, about fifteen, with a Milk pail upon her head, just entering a Gate to do the Office of a Milk-maid, with whose Features I was so taken that I could not chuse but fix my Eyes upon her, and to have the better opportunity, I asked her several questions about the way and the names of the adjacent Villages, to which she made me such modest and innocent Replys, that I resolved to be further acquainted with her; and so Rid into the Field after her, at which she began to be in some consternation, supposing I intended her some injury; but when with many Protestations I had satisfied her the contrary, she hushed her

fears, and we began to discourse of divers matters, yet so powerfull her Charms wrote in my mind, that every stroak she gave the Cows Dugs, with her pretty fingers, put strange Fancies into my head, making me utterly forget, or at least not regard, what I had protested, when gaining her at an advantage, the Coast being clear, and a great way from any Houles, between willing and unwilling, I obliged her to grant my desire, after which I protested so much Love for her, that I dryed up those few Tears that fell, and it was agreed between us that she should first go home, and I coming as a Stranger to her Father's House, who kept a Farm about a mile distance, she would so contrive it that I should find Entertainment; and accordingly she did, for watching when I came to the Gate, she came first to receive my request, and returning, assured the old Dad that a Gentleman who was be-lated and ill-acquainted with the Country, had lost his way, and desired a Nights Entertainment, which the old Man readily consented to give, and bid me welcome; so that that night passing over, and I liking my pretty Country Mistris extreamly, I feigned a Sickness the next morning, and so continued there about a Fortnight; and in the end began (before the old People) to make Love to her

her in publick, the which, though they excuſed it as a Match unmeet for me, I notwithſtanding urging, that I could no otherwiſe return them a plenary ſatisfaction for their kindneſs. They ſeemed well enough contented with it and did not a little privately rejoyce to ſee us together, eſpecially after I had ſhowed them ſtore of Gold, and poſſeſſed them with an opinion that I had a great Eſtate: nor was I leſs diligent to enquire of my young Miſtriſs what ſtore of Coin her Father had by him, when to the croſſing my expectation, ſhe aſſured me he had not Five pounds, having lately payed a conſiderable Summe for a Purchaſe; whereupon I concluded to be gone, with all convenient ſpeed: However, the Night before the Morning I intended to be jogging, being about to take, in the uſual manner, my laſt farewell with my Miſtriſs in a back Room, where a great many Milk Pans ſtood, we unfortunately threw down ſome of them, together with the Form they ſtood on, which made ſuch a clattering that before we could diſengage or convey our ſelves thence, in came the old Man, and too plainly perceived what Game we had been at, ſeeming greatly diſſatisfied, but I ſtill promiſing Marriage, and making many Excuſes and Apologies, eſpecially for my Miſtriſs, things were

hushed for the present, and I to prevent further Importunity on that occasion, Mounted without the knowledge of any of the Family, before day and stopped not, till I was Twenty Miles distance; yet not to be ungrateful, I left on the Table in my Chamber Twenty pieces of Gold to defray the Charges of my Mistriss lying in, and other things of the like nature, together with a Copy of Verses relating to our former Affairs.

CHAP. XII.

How being planted from his Country Mistriss whom he had engaged under promise of Marriage; he was Set upon by a Female Robber, how he discovered it, and how afterward attempting to Rob he was Robbed and Wounded, &c.

HAving left the Farmer and his Wife to condole the Loss of their Daughter's Virginity; as I was Riding careless on the Road, in a Bottom between two Coppices, a supposed Gentleman, well Mounted, started from behind a Thicket on little Tuft of Trees and commanded me to Deliver, to which

which I replyed, if he would have a little patience he should have his desire; whereupon I drew out a Pocket Pistol and fired without doing Execution, but he was almost as nimble as my self, for drawing a Pistol and firing, he shot me in the leg; and having his Sword at command, that hung on his Wrist, he cut the Reins of my Bridle, and had soon had me at his Mercy, had not the Bullets of the next Pistol I discharged entered his Horses Forehead and brought him to the Ground; yet mine survived not long, for my supposed Gentleman being upon his feet sheathed his Sword in my Horse's Belly, and brought us once more upon equal Terms, where, after some Passes, I found him more expert at the Sword than my self, and therefore putting by a Pass, which had otherwise done my Business, I closed, and with much ease threw him, at which I did not a little wonder, and having him at my Mercy I bound his hands, and began to take the Booty, insulting now like an *Indian* Brammin over a Country Peasant: but coming to unbotton his Breeches to search for private Pockets, he would have clapped his hands to prevent it, which I perceived by the Motion, but they were bound too fast, when searching lower, he cryed out, entreating me to be civil, which made me sus-

ſpect ſomewhat more than ordinary Treaſure but on the contrary turning up the Shirt, otherwiſe Smock, I perceived I had been miſtaken in the Sex, and thereupon with no ſmall Conſternation, having given my Eyes an unexpected ſatisfaction, I begged (inſtead of his) her Pardon, and inſtantly unbound her, for which ſhe returned me hanks, intreating me to be private in what I had diſcovered, and go along with her where ſhe would repair the loſs of my Horſe by beſtowing a better upon me; and ſo taking off the furniture we paſſed through the Coppice, and after that through an over grown Wood, where under an extraordinary ſhadow of Trees ſtood a little Houſe, into this we entered and were by my Hoſteſs extreamly welcomed, Wine we had, though much contrary to my expectation, in ſuch a Place where I ſuppoſed their principal Liquor to conſiſt on the Eſſence of Crabs, and in a trice a couple of Fowls were layed to the fire and made ready, when in came two other Amazons, in Mens Apparel, and having underſtood from my pretty Padder who I was, with the Relation of our Adventure, we ſoon became intimately acquainted, ſo that the Mirth encreaſing, we proceeded to a more amorous combate; but I being the only Pike-man

found

found the Service in the end too hot for me, and a ceſſation of Arms was had at my entreaty; and then they informed me who they were, and how they came to undertake theſe pieces of Knight-Errantry: and the next morning, being provided with a ſtately Gelding which my pretty Antagoniſt had ſent for from a private Stable, after they had obliged me to ſecrecy, I took my leave.

Being again well Mounted, I reſolved not to quit my new Undertaking, and therefore proceeded to ſcowre the Road, but meeting with no Booty, I came to an Inn where I had been before with our Gang, and there the Hoſtler no ſooner perceived me enter, but coming to me and taking hold on my Bridle, he whiſpered me in the Ear, telling me that a Gentleman, with a conſiderable Summe of Money in his Cloak-bag, had baited there, and was not above a mile before me; telling me likewiſe what Road he was to take, and that he knew him to be a very Cowardly Fellow, and that he would ſwoon away at the ſight of a naked Sword or cockt Piſtol; for this News and to bribe him to ſilence, I gave him an Angel, and not ſtaying to drink, I haſted after my Gentleman, and had ſoon ſight of him from the top of a little riſing Hill, nor was it long before that I reached him with an ordinary pace,

and

and passed by, the better to observe him, and indeed I took him for a very clouterly Fellow; and so in the bottom, perceiving the Coast clear, I faced about, and with my drawn Sword in my hand bid him deliver the Money he had in his Cloak-bag, or he was a dead Man, Sis, sis, Sir (said he lisping very much) I, I, am going home to, which I fiercely replyed, if he durst thus delay or trifle with me I would so cudgel him that he should dearly repent it; telling him further, that I knew he had Money, and therefore he must instantly deliver it, Ile-'tis true, said he, but it is my Fa-Fa-Father's Money, I bang your Father, said I, and his stuttering Coxcomb too, I must have your Money or your life, not another moment, wh-wh-why then you shall, replyed he, and thereupon drew out a Pocket Pistol and fired at me, which made my Horse fly off; when drawing his Sword, almost as broad as a chopping-knife, he came upon me with such unexpected Fury, and continued Cutting so unmercifully, that he soon brought me to the Ground, in spite of all the resistance I made, so that I was forced to beg Quarter, which at last he granted, yet rifled my Pockets, taking away all the Money I had, leaving no private Place unsearched, I concluded, as afterward I more fully understood

stood, that he was or had been of my own Profession; nor did he, after he had reproved me for being so mean a Spirited Thief, spare to take my Horse, leaving me an old scrubbed Hackney-Cropper instead of him, of which, all bloody and wounded as I was, I thought good to accept; and plainly perceiving the Hostler had purposely put this Trick upon me, I concluded with my self to Ride back and be revenged of him; but by the way, it coming into my head that my Horse might be known there, I changed my Resolution, and betook my self to a Country Village, a little out of the Road, and alighting at a little Ale-house, I declared to the People that flocked about me, seeing me in that bloody condition, that five or six High-waymen had set upon me, and because I made all the resistance I could to save my Money, being two Pieces of Gold, and indeed all I could call my own in the World, they had thus mangled me. This Relation and the apparent Signs of my abuse wrote great Compassion in them, so that they hasted for a Surgeon, and made a small gathering to defray my charges; yet such was my ill hap that the next morning my Horse was known, and the true Owner, whose House was not far off, and who had been formerly of the Pad but since reclaimed,

and

and Son to a Gentleman of a considerable Estate, not being to be found, I was questioned for murthering him, though his absenting himself was only upon the account of his making himself merry with the Money he had taken from me, and I not being capable of giving any satisfactory account in this matter, (but tripping in my Relation) was carried before a Justice, who seeing my Wounds, and judging by the greatness thereof, that there had been a dangerous and mortal Battel to occasion them, he could guess no less then that a Murther had decided it, and so sent me in that wounded condition I was in, to the County Goal: but the Gentleman appearing about a Week after, I was at the next Assizes, none coming in against me to make prosecution, discharged. Yet being destitute of Horse and Money, Fortune so favoured me, that, happy for my purpose, an old Acquaintance, came to me, who was a Law Solicitor or rather an abuser of it, and supplied my Necessities; giving me likewise an account of his Life, which appeared to me to be stupendiously knavish and wicked, that when I had heard him reckon up the many Cheats and Knaveries he had performed, with the many cunning Stratagems and almost unheard of Exploits he had used to bring them to pass, I con-

concluded that all my Rogueries were nothing comparable to them, and plainly found that I was yet but a Novice in Villany: However, I ſhall ſpare to mention them, leaſt others knowing them, ſhould put them in practice, to the Ruin of poor People, on whom, though I ſpared not the Rich, I had my ſelf, all along, a more than ordinary compaſſion.

Being again ſet up with a promiſe to pay my furniſher double the Money he lent me, within a Month I Rode for *Oxford*, and by the way met with two of the old Gang, from whom I underſtood that the reſt had taken their leave of the World through a Hempen Caſement, which occaſioned a fit of Melancholly to ſeize me, imagining that at one time or other it would be my Fortune to follow them: However, calling at one of the Stages on the Road, they ſoon drowned my fears with Canary, and ſo we proceeded to our former Practices. But coming to *Oxford* I had not been long there before my *Cheſter* Landlord, of whom I had borrowed the Ten pounds, got a fight of me, and having lodged me in a Houſe, immediately fetched a couple of fellows that lodged me in a Priſon, yet I ſtayed not there a week before my Companions knowing where I was, ſent the Debt and Fees, which wrote

ſuch

such powerfull effects that I soon had my Liberty, so that knowing where my Deliverers were, I resolved to go and return them my thanks for their kindness, which indeed I little expected from them.

CHAP. XIII.

How being released from Prison, where he was put for Debt, he came to his Companions. How he snapp'd a Gentleman of a Watch, Robb'd a Physician, under pretence of carrying him to a Patient, and gained his Ends by a beautifull rich Widow, &c.

COming into the Room where my Companions were, I found them with two strange Gentlemen, whom they were pumping to find which way they intended to Travel, and what Charge they had about them; but to their small satisfaction, they perceived they had no more than might would defray their Charges, though over and above one of them had a curious Watch, at which their Mouths water'd, and the which I, who late by them, as a stranger to all, undertook to get with little trouble or hazard; and having made my intention known

by

by signs to my Companions, I went out and ordered my Horse to be Bridled and Sadled, when in the mean while my Companions being desirous to know what hour it was, drew their Watches, which the Stranger (who perhaps had not long been Master of one, and desirous to seem some-body) perceiving, drew his, so that a Dispute arising which went truest, or which was the best Watch, a Wager was thereupon layed, and I returning at the instant, they agreed that I being a Stranger, indifferent to either Party, should decide it, when taking the Watches out of the strange Gentleman's Hand, and pretending the Room too dark to give a true Judgment, I stepped out at the Door and Mounting made such speed that I was quickly out of sight, at which my Companions stormed, and with much fierceness said, it was a Design plotted between the strange Gentleman and me, and that he would have instantly satisfaction since he had delivered it; and proceeded to such a height of Roaring, that the Gentleman, though he protested against any Acquaintance with me, or ever before to have seen me, was forced to give him a Pistol to stop his Mouth: whereupon they followed me and found me at the next Stage, where, in requital of their late kindness, I gave them

the

the Watch. And here we called so long for Wine and other materials, that our Stock run very low, whereupon we sent for mine Host, and demanded of him if he could tell us any good news, to which he replyed, he knew of a Bird that had good Feathers, if we could but lay a Trap for him: and being desired to explain himself he said, that there was a Physician in the Town before us, who, for the great esteem he bore to the Metal, always carried fifty or sixty broad Pieces of Gold about him, and if you can (continued he) get him out by a wile some distance from home you know what you have to do. This I undertook and soon brought it to pass, under pretence of having a young Maiden, a Sister of mine, who was shortly to be Married, taken desperate sick; taking upon me the Name and Character of a Gentleman whom Mr. Doctor knew to have a Sister at a Boarding-School where he had some Patients, *&c.*

These two Exploits gained me much repute amongst my Companions, and much endeared me to them: however, being much taken notice of in the Country, we concluded, for a time, to separate, which accordingly we did, and taking each a several Road, it was my lot, just as the Sun was about to Set, to approach a fair House, some distance

distance from any Town or Village, and thither I made, thinking that something there might turn to my advantage, as indeed it did. Being come to the Gate, I boldly knocked and the Maid coming to demand my Business, I desired her to tell her Master that I was a Gentleman, that had by misfortune mistook the Road I intended, and having a considerable Charge about me, and night coming on, I was loath to venture further, and therefore desired the Courtesie of a Lodging for that night: the Wench having made this Relation to her Mistris, for a Master she had not, the good Gentlewoman came to the Gate her self, and very civilly welcom'd me in, telling me that any Person, who looked like a Gentleman, might freely make use of her House upon such an occasion; and so she conducted me into a very fair Room hung with curious Pictures, and beautified with many other Adornements, where she demanded several questions of me in Relation to my Travels, and what I more particularly was; to all which, I framed sutable Answers, who seeming extreamly pleased with my Company, prepared an extraordinary Supper to speak my better welcome. And being set at Table, I had the more leisure to eye her and found that Nature had much befriended her,

her, by framing her exceeding beautifull, and by her quaint Expressions, I as well perceived that her Wit run paralell, and Supper ended, we spun out the time till Ten of the Clock, discoursing upon sundry things, at what time she told me that, knowing I was weary (for I pretended I had Travelled three times further than I had) she would no longer hinder my Repose; and thereupon conducted me to my Chamber, and betook her self to hers; and though I was somewhat weary yet I could sleep but little, for thinking upon this Gentlewoman, who, in what I could, still ran in my mind; and as I was contriving how I might make an excuse for a longer delay. Day now appearing, I heard her Chamber door open, and soon after the Maid brought me up a Candle, which I had scarce dispensed withal, but in came the Mistris, and bid me a good Morning, enquiring how I slept, to which I made a most obliging Reply, rendering her many thanks for the favour she had done me, upon which she retired, and I perceiving her up, thought it a shame for me to be in Bed, and thereupon I instantly put on my Cloaths, when coming down I found she had prepared an Extraordinary Breakfast for my Entertainment, which, after some Complementary excuses, I accepted; and then after several

veral Discourses, which she purposely found out to delay me, whilst her Eyes sparkled Love and Goodness, in a very ceremonious manner, I took my leave, yet she would accompany me to take Horse, at what time, when he was brought out of the Stable, he halted down Lame, for as I afterward understood she had caused him to be pricked in the foot to prolong my stay, which was as I could wish; and whilst I stood musing at this, supposing it an Accident, not well knowing what to say or think, well Sir, said she, since it has so unluckily fallen out that your Horse is disabled, make use of my Horse, and what is affords, till he is recovered of his Lameness: inwardly glad at this invitation, though I made many pretences of urgent Business, I returned with her, and so we fell again to discourse of many things, and in all I found her so witty and ingenious that I could not but admire her: when having talked our selves weary, come, said she, in a very familiar manner, I'll shew you the product of some idle hours; and with that, going to her Closet (where I could have willed, would good manners have permitted, to have followed her) she immediately returned, with a handfull of Papers, containing Elegies, Epitaphs, Anagrams, Acrosticks, and much more of the like kind,

very

very witty and ingenious, which she said were of her own composing; nor in truth could I sufficiently commend them, being the very Essence of a curious Fancy: wherupon to give her to understand that I was no Bastard of the Muses, and to render her, in some measure, a suitable return, I took the Pen and Ink and wrote these lines.

Fifteen thrice thrice, I've read it and no more,
Till your rare Wit compleated half a score:
Since you are one, let me perswade you then
Be kind to any, for they are but few Men,
Fairest be like them, they are soft and blithe,
Let who will love the Nine, give me the Tithe.

Upon reading these Lines she smiled and blushed, when recollecting her self, she returned me her Thanks, telling me she was much obliged to me for what I had writ; resolving to lay hold of this opportunity, I replyed, you cannot, Madam, cancel your Obligation until you have made me some recompence. To which, she, smilingly demanded what would content me. A Continuance, Madam, replyed I, of your favour, which is the utmost Ambition of my Desires. You have it Sir, said she, nor can I in civility deny a thing so inconsiderable to any deserving Man. Ah Madam! continued I, mistake

me

me not, for by it I mean your Love. To this she briskly replyed, whilst her eyes betrayed the inward motions of her mind, I was never so uncharitable Sir to be out of Love with any Person. These free Answers to my Proposals, did not a little encourage me, as knowing a Fort that thus capitulates will not be long e'er it surrenders, so that laying aside all niceties, I plainly told her that I passionately loved her from the first moment I beheld her lovely Person, and that if she would yield me her Love, the future Business of my Life should be to serve and oblige her; whereupon a pleasing Blush over-spread her Face, and when she had a little composed her self, she told me it was a weighty matter I demanded, and that my Constancy ought to be left to the Test of Time; or indeed, should she believe me suddenly, before she had made Tryal, it would not only lessen the good Estimation she had gained by the prudent and discreet conduct and management of her Affairs, everyone accusing her for too much credulity, but thereby it might peradventure, involve her in a Labyrinth of Troubles. Yet perceiving a yielding in her eyes, and we being private in her Chamber, and knowing that Parleys operate little on a Widow, and that there is nothing sooner gains a Conquest

than

than a resolute assault, between willing and unwilling, perceiving me resolutely bent, she yielded to a Tryal of my Love; after which she became so firmly mine, that she would scarcely endure me out of her sight, so that we spent two months in all manner of Delights and Pleasures: at the end of which, perceiving her self with Child, she pressed me to Marry her, shewing me, the better to encourage me to comply with her desires, the Writings that belonged to her Estate, which I found to be very considerable; as likewise she gave me the Keys of her Trunks, wherein she had great store of Treasure, demanding with many endearing Kisses and Embraces, whether these satisfied me or not: to which I replyed, they did, but I was more abundantly satisfied in her dear affected self; and thereupon made a solemn Promise to Marry her in four days: but whilst she was preparing for our Nuptials, I was plotting to be gone, though since I have often wished I had been so wise as to lay hold of this opportunity to have made my self happy in a settled Life, and thereby have prevented the miseries that afterward befell me.

Many ways I contrived to leave my lovely Widow, whose Charms, Features and Endowments, though they were many and excellent,

excellent, could not prevail over my Rambling Fancy: but she narrowly watching me, as suspecting I intended to leave her, I was forced to feign an indisposition, pretending for my Healths sake, that I would Ride four or five miles and return again, having before crammed my Pockets with as much Money as I could conveniently carry without discovery; to which she with much unwillingness consented. Yet as I was about to take Horse, she wept very bitterly, and when I asked her the cause of her discontent, all bathed in Tears, and at the same time fetching a deep Sigh, she said, I shall never see you more, hard-hearted Man, can you thus leave a Woman that loves you thus dearly, nay doats upon you? and though I made many protestations of returning, which, indeed, I never intended, I could not comfort her; but leaving her over-whelmed in a flood of Grief, I set spurs to my Horse, and was quickly out of sight. Though afterward reflecting upon this inhumane Action, I extreamly condemned my self, however, Wine and good Company, those Antedotes against care and sorrow, soon washed her memory out of my mind, though alighting a considerable distance from her House, at a little Alehouse, I wrote these Verses over a Pot of Ale, and sent them by a trusty Mes-

ſenger, intending to ſtay for any Anſwer, *viz.*

Madam,

A Poeteſs you are and Prophet too,
Thus to divine that I am gone from you
Eternally; *'tis true, think you I'll eat,*
Though ne'er ſo choice, always one ſort of Meat?
You ſay you are with Child, piſh, don't complain,
'Tis but the product of your fruitfull Brain;
Ye're only big with Fancy, which may prove
A witty Brat, like Pallas, *ſprung from* Jove.
And have you then Conceiv'd? how can I chuſe
But write Encomiums on your fertile Muſe?
Mind not the Father, nor his Brat, for it
Will like the Father live, no doubt, on Wit:
Let Pegaſus *be Godfather, the Crew*
Of the Nine Muſes, Goſſips, ſo adieu.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

How he came to London *and got Time of his Creditors. Found out his Wife, with the Adventure that attended it. Set up a new Trade, was routed. Undertook the Robbing of a House, was taken, committed to* Newgate, *and escaped thence. He Rooked a Culley, and went to a House of Entertainment.*

HAving left my Widow in Tears, and being well ſtored with Money, I haſted to *London*, and there meeting with a truſty Friend, for fear of being ſerved as it happened to me at *Oxford*, I got him to go to my Creditors and get me a Letter of Licence, I intending, if I could ſuddenly happen on any conſiderable Booty, to augment what I had, to begin the World afreſh: which accordingly he did of the moſt conſiderable for the ſpace of three years; as for the inconſiderable ones I did not much value them, as knowing I cou'd make them ſatisfaction if it came to extremity. And now it coming into my mind that I had left a Wife behind me when I went for *Ireland*, I made enquiry for her amongſt her Relations, but they were altogether ignorant of her aboad;

wherefore my mind miſgiving me that ſhe was Set up for a free Trader upon the ſtock of her Mothers Legacy, it took me up a whole day to Ramble through all the ſuſpected Places, when, towards the cloſe of tha Evening, as I paſſed through *Whetſtones* Park, I ſaw my Jewel ſtanding at a Door, but her frequent Trading, and thoſe many ſhots ſhe had received between Wind and Water in the Service, had ſo altered her Countenance and diſproportioned her Body, that I knew not whither this Frigate was *Engliſh* or *Flemiſh* built: However I haling whence ſhe was, Boarded her, and made her a lawfull Prize, miſtake me not, I rummaged not in her Hold as ſuſpecting ſhe was a fire Ship: upon the ſight and knowledge of me, she shed ſome Crockadiles Tears, and intreating me not to take notice of her, but to comply with the Cuſtoms of the Houſe in their unconſcionable Reckonings and Meaſure, in we went, but ſcarce had time to look about us, before a doubty Blade, like a Skeleton, or the Bones of a Man with an artificial Skin drawn over them, came ſwearing into the Room, and addreſſing himſelf to my Wife, in a ſnuffling Tone, ſaid, why do you ſtay with this Fellow and leave me thus you unconſtant Queen? have I ſpent my Eſtate on you, and muſt you now grow

grow weary of me? and with that he drew his Knife, making a proffer to cut off her Nose; when as I was so amazed at what I heard, and withal so irritated that I knew not well which of them to be revenged on first: However to prevent the sudden danger, I started up, and Sir, said I, I have been acquainted with this Woman longer than you, and may justly claim a better Title and more Priviledge, but as you have affronted me, so I shall require satisfaction instantly; when drawing my Knife and seizing on his Nose, it dropped into my hand, at which unexpected Accident, and the sight of his Deaths Head, I stood so amazed, that I durst not further meddle with him, least the rest of his Members should fall off in like manner: yet he, to shew himself something valiant, made a kick and a blow at me, but that Leg which rested upon the Ground being very feeble, down he tumbled backward, and whilst I was looking whether, like an Earthen Vessel, he was not shattered to pieces with the Fall, up came the Old Beldame puffing and blowing, as quite out of Breath, and coming to him said, Sirrah, Sirrah, come you hither to breed Quarrels and abuse civil Gentlemen, and it may be to build a Sconce too, get you out of my House you Rascal, or I'll scald you out; and so

calling for more assistance, they dragg'd this poor Fellow out of the doors, and although as I understood he had a long time frequented the House and spent profusely whilst it lasted, yet they neither pittied him as a maimed Souldier, the marks whereof were a sufficient Testimony, nor as a former extraordinary Customer; which indeed neither he nor any that haunt such pernicious Places deserve, and I can but wish they would consider it. Being sick of the Pestilential Air that breathed here, I appointed my Wife to meet me in another Place, where we could discourse more uninterruptedly; and so discharging the Reckoning, which was five times the value of what we really had, I departed.

My Wife meeting me at the appointed time, we agreed to take a House in a blind Alley in *Moor-fields*, which we did for the Trading purpose; some Goods we bought and some we took up on the Talley, all this while concealing my stock: and soon after my Wife going to the Carriers procured a couple of brisk handsome Country Girls, so that our Trade went on roundly, and great Gain ensued. But being in the height of the Business, or Trade, she and her two Ladies of Pleasure were taken up by a Warrant and sent to *Bridewell*; when in the mean time,

I, who

I, who went not for her Husband, and was little taken notice of, by reaſon I was ſeldom at home, ſold off all the Goods and put the Money in my Pocket, and ſo went to viſit my Wife in *Bridewell*, and fortunately it happened, that it was on the day she was to receive her Correction: however I found her and her two Journey-women beating Hemp, and ſo ſtrangely my Imagination worked that I fancied the very Hemp that was under my Wifes Beetle would make the Rope that should ſend me into another World. And now my Wife being naked ſtripped to the Waſt and manacled, whilſt she expected I should intreat for her to the mitigation of her Punishment, I declared to the Preſident the whole Courſe of her Life, with Aggravation, deſiring that the nnmber of her ſtripes might be encreaſed, and ſo, without giving her leave to reply, withdrew my ſelf, and left the Fellow incircling her Waſt with his Cat a Ninetails, nor did her two Complices fail to run the ſame riſque.

I was ſcarce got into the ſtreet, when I met two of my Quondam Companions, who invited me to the Tavern, where over a Glaſs of Wine it was agreed that I should convey my ſelf into a Houſe, nominated, which they intended to Rob, and ſo when all the Family was in Bed, to open the Doors

and let them in: nor did my firſt Attempt fail to promiſe me ſucceſs, for without the leaſt Diſcovery, I got under the Bed in a lower Room, and there lay as ſnug as a Thief in a Mill, till Candles were brought, when peeping out I perceived, by the laying of the Cloth, they intended to Sup there that night, which did not at all pleaſe me; however, whilſt I was conſidering whether I had beſt keep my Station or ſneak out again, in came the Gueſt, and after ſome Complements, took their Seats, which put me in ſuch a fear, that my Knees knocked together like Marrow-bones, and for my Life I could not at that time prevent a fit of the Palſie: and now to encreaſe the Agony I was in, the Cat having gotten a large Bone came with it under the Bed, whether the Dog followed her, where falling at variance, the ſpot whereon they combated was my Back-ſide; however, the Cat being put to the worſt fled for it, but the Dog finding me heave and ſtir, kept a terrible grinning and barking, when to drive him thence, one of the Servants threw a fire-ſhovel at him, which with the ſharp edge had like to have pared off my Noſe: but he continuing his noiſe to the diſturbance of the Company, they drew him out by the heels, and thruſt him forth of the Room, yet no ſooner was

the

the Door open but he re enters, and came at me with greater fury, when to avoid his catching me by the Face, turning my Head nimbly, I struck it against the Beds supporter with such force that it made the whole Frame to shake, and I, at the same time, letting fly behind through the excess of fear that had seized me, the Room was incontinently perfumed, which made many of the Guest hold their Noses, and perceiving the Dog to grow more earnest, they concluded something more than ordinary must occasion it, when looking underneath they could, without the help of Spectacles, see poor Peel Garlick giving up the Ghost, yet not standing upon any Ceremony they dragged me out by the heels and conveyed me, with the help of a Constable, before the next Justice of the Peace, who committed me to Prison, from whence soon after, I escaped down the Vault or Evacuating-house, with two others by the help of a Rope, brought me by a trusty Friend, and so by crawling through the many Windings of the Common-shore under ground, meeting by the way with the effects of sundry Houses of Easement, and dead Carcases, almost stifled with the noisom damp, often wishing our selves back again, though in vain, we regained the Light, and breathed the free Air, having before filed of

our Bolts, and had fresh Cloaths provided for us by some of our Accomplices, and going to a House that we could confide in, we there lay snug till the heat of the Search for us was over, and then so disguised our selves before we durst walk abroad, that, upon my first coming upon my Companions, I so frighted them, they not knowing me, that they were struck speechless, and ready to dye with fear: such Power has the terror of Guilt over the Consciences of Men. But being dress't in querpo out we went, and in the long Walk, between the Hospitals, met with a Mouth, that is, a Novice or Gulley, whom we drilled to the Tavern, under pretence of deciding and spending a Wager, and there at Dice and Cards, having those prepared for the purpose, we Drinking him high, Rooked, what with Betts and playing, at least Forty pounds out of him, which set us up Cock-a-hoop.

Being stored with Money, we began to study how we should dispose of it; but as the Devil never wants a Factor to promote his Ends, one of my Companions informed me of a private House of Entertainment, I would have had them accompanied me thither, but it seems they were to well known, as having broken a Chest, and taking thence a considerable Summe of Money some-

some time before, and further they told me that if any more than a single Person came, they would not be admitted; and further, that although the House was very stately, I should boldly enter and enquire for a Lodging, which would be my Pasport. Accordingly I went, but seeing a Porter with his Staff, as is usual at great Mens Houses, standing at the Door, I concluded I was either mistaken in the House, or that they had put a Trick upon me: however setting a good Face on it, I went up to the Porter, and demanded whether there were any Lodgings to be let, to which he replyed, there were, and if I would please to walk in I might take a view of them: I was no sooner entered, but a grave Matron, in an extraordinary rich Habit, met me, to whom I renewed my Question, and she assured me as before; and thereupon desiring me to follow her, she lead me into a stately Parlour, as well to take a serious view of my Person as of my Garb, by one to guess whether I had been genteely bred, and by the other, whether I was sufficiently furnished with Coin; and approving of both, she required me to walk up stairs, and there she opened a door and introduced me into a Chamber hung with Cloth of Arras, interwoven with Gold and Silver, graced with a con-

considarable number of Pictures in guilded and enamell'd Frames, representing Women, which I took to be those of the most celebrated Beauties in all Ages, and began, as being wonderfully taken with them, to contemplate their rare Perfections, so that whilst I was musing on, and admiring what feasted my Eyes and Mind, she demanded my Judgment, since Limning was so much studied by Gentlemen, which of those Pieces were best drawn; whereupon pointing to one, and lively describing it, after the exactest Method of Beauty, I told her if my Judgment might stand for any thing, I should pitch upon that as the most curious that ever I had seen, wishing my self no greater Happiness than to have, if it was possible, a view of the Lady it represented; and that, said she, is not impossible, if you can have the Faith to believe your own Eyes; and thereupon desiring me to tarry a while, she withdrew, leaving me big with expectation, when all on a sudden, I heard the rustling of Silks, and casting my Eyes towards the Door, I beheld, entering, one of the fairest Creatures that, methought, I had ever seen in all the Progress of my Life, at which, amazed, I could scarcely believe there was so much perfection in any one Mortal; so that with profound Reverence, I stood admiring,

miring or rather adoring her Person, till having seated her self, she, in a familiar strain, required me to sit down by her; at which, reassuming my former stock of Confidence, I could at length discourse with her upon divers matters, insomuch that she demanded if I knew the Customs of the House, to which I answered, I was altogether ignorant, then she told me I might call for what Wine I would, not exceeding four Bottles, and command what eatable varieties the House afforded, and if I stayed not all night should have a Mistriss into the Bargain for Forty shillings; but if you continue till the next Morning, said she, you must do thus she laying down, at that time, ten Pieces, and whether you fancy me or any other, it is at your choice, the money to lye under your own Pillow, and for every Kiss, &c. you may draw back a Piece, with this I instantly complyed, and having the Company of my Beautifull Mistriss, in which I was over joy'd, I so well played the Man, that the next morning I had the most part of my money back again. Yet these Females who Trade rather for Pleasure than Profit, will not meddle or have any conversation with every Rascallion, and that they may not appear before they are well satisfied in the Man, they have Places to look through, where they may see and

not

not be ſeen: And though I was loath to leave ſo charming a Creature, yet being further admoniſhed that it was not the cuſtom for any to ſtay longer at a time, leaſt they created ſuſpicion, I with much regret took my leave.

CHAP. XV.

He and two of his Companions going upon the Pad, are over-powr'd and taken in the attempting of a Robbery, He is committed to Newgate, *and Condemned: the Sorrow that he fell into,* &c.

HAving left my beauteous Miſtriſs, my buſineſs was now to find out my Comrades, which I ſoon did, as well knowing their Haunts, and there we concluded to purchaſe Horſes, and travail in ſearch of Adventures, which accordingly we did, but it proved to our ſmall Satisfaction, for attempting to ſet upon three perſons, whom we judged we might eaſily overcome, I had at the ſecond firing, my Horſe ſhot under me, and at the fourth, one of my Companions was killed, although we fired ſmartly, and wounded our Adverſaries; which my other Companion

patron perceiving, and finding we were overmatched, fled leaving me to shift for my self, who, although I fought desperately as one in despair, knowing I should be Hanged if I was taken, I was at last overpow'red, and being carried to the next Justice, he committed me to *Newgate*: where upon my Arrival the Keeper was exceeding glad to see me, telling me I should be no more annoyed with the Fumes of the Vault, for he would provide me another Lodging; and thereupon loading me with as much Iron as some Country Smiths have in their Shop, I was, for a while, put into the Dungeon, and Sessions soon coming on, my Accusers appearing against me, I was at the *Old-Bailey* Tryed and Condemned to be Hanged: returning, after Sentance, to the Place from whence I came with a sad and dejected Heart.

Being returned to my Terrestial *Tophet*, where Darkness, Horrour and Despair surrounded me, I began seriously to reflect upon my past Actions, for now my sleeping Conscience began to be awakened, and the Terrors of Guilt took hold on me, concluding my self now upon the brink of Eternity, and that a few hours would push me into that vast and boundless Abyss, and that I must appear before the Judge of all the Earth

Earth, againſt whoſe tremendious Majeſty I had made it the whole Buſineſs of my Life to Sin and commit Wickedneſs, and therefore could expect nothing but Wrath and fierey Indignation: yet that I might ſomewhat repair the injury I had done my Country-men, I, during the little reſpite I had before my Tryal, made a plain Diſcovery of the practice of High-way-men, their manner of Robbing, and how Travellers might beſt ſecure themſelves and avoid them, reſolving, in the little remainder of my days that I ſuppoſed I had to live, to do all the good and make all the Reparation that lay in my power. And now I was viſited by a faithfull Miniſter, who firſt applyed Corroſives to my ulcerated Soul, by laying before me the danger I was in, without the interpoſition of an extraordinary Mercy, everlaſtingly to periſh: and having made me abundantly ſenſible of my deplorable Eſtate, which he perceived by the Rivers of Tears that flowed from my Eyes, and the deep Sighs that ſeemed to rend and break my ſtoney Heart in ſunder, he began to enquire into the Actions of my Life, and was amazed upon the recital, that ſo many Villanies could claim a ſhare in one Man, eſpecially of my years. However, before he left me, he gave me ſuch cordial Conſolation and Advice that it

wrought

wrought wonderfull effects, insomuch that I was broken under the sense of my Sin and Vileness, and cryed for Mercy without ceasing, wishing to endure all the Torments this World could inflict upon me, so that I might escape those which were eternal: and when I reflected upon Eternity, upon endless woe and misery, to endure for a thousand of Millions of Ages, and then to be as far from ending as at first, my Soul started and was swallowed up in an Abyss of Horror and Confusion, yet, in the end, I found a little more comfort, which by degrees encreased, &c.

From the time of my Condemnation till *Monday* Morning, the day appointed for my Execution, I neither slept nor eat, only so much as might just support Life; then did I hear my Passing-Bell, the day before having heard my Funeral Sermon, and every Tole methought carried my Soul one degree higher, as well hoping, by the calmness of my mind, that my unfeigned Contrition had prevailed with the God of Mercies to have compassion on me. But whilst I was in the depth of my Meditation, and my Soul-breathing out this short Ejaculation, *viz.*

Is

Is there no hope now of Relief
in this Extremity?
Mercy e'er now has sav'd a Thief,
and may as much for me.

A Friend of mine, who had not visited me during my Imprisonment, brought me word that I was Reprieved, and that my punishment of Death was changed into a seven years Banishment, though it was a considerable time before he could make me believe it; and when I was assured it was true I was so indifferent that, being fully prepared to dye, and so well, as I hoped, settled my Affairs as to Eternity, that I could not for some time determine with my self whether it would not rather prove to my greater disadvantage than advantage: however, the Flesh pleaded for Life, and I thankfully accepted it, and within a fortnight after was Shipped on Board, with many others, for one of the Plantations.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

Being Reprieved, he is Shipped in order to Transportation. Is Caſt away, yet taken up. A ſecond time he is Caſt away; eſcapes to Land. Puts again to Sea and is taken by the Turks. *The Miſeries he endures. And how he paſſed to* India, *&c.*

BEing on Board, we ſet Sail from the *Downs*, about the beginning of *September*, but were ſcarce out of the ſight of Land, before a melancholly Darkneſs o'erſpread the Face of the Heavens, and thick Clouds began to muſter like Armies, the Winds inſtantly grew into a Storm, and the Sea into Mountains of Waves, whilſt we reeled from ſide to ſide like drunken Men, and all hands were too few to keep the Ship in order, and although we pumped inceſſantly the Waters prevailed in our Hold, and every Man, in whoſe Face appeared the viſible Symptoms of Death, began to cry for Mercy, eſpecially when they were informed by thoſe that were ſent in ſearch, that the Leak our Ship had ſprung was incurable: and now I began to think my ſelf the *Jonah* in the Ship, and that this Puniſhment happened

pened to the reſt for my Sins. But every Man endeavouring to ſhift for himſelf, not to be behind hand, I leaped off the Deck, thinking to leap into the Boat but came ſhort; yet being dextrous at Swimming, I at laſt got in, but was no ſooner there e'er another leaped down upon me and had almoſt beae the Breath out of my Body, the which, however, in this Exigence, I took kindly enough; and now the Boat being as full as it would well bear, we were forced for ſelf-preſervation, to put off, and leave a great number behind us, and ſo committed our ſelves to the Mercy of the Sea, which played at Racket with us, tolling us from Wave to Wave, ſometimes mounting us up as if it would waſh us in the Clouds, then down again as if it would bury us in the Sands.

Tam tam tacturus, ſidera ſumma petes.

When in the moment of Death, and we we were without hope, the Wind tacked about, and brought back a Ship of our Company in ſight of us, but it ſtill Rode on ſo furiouſly before the Wind, that although on either part we uſed what endeavours we could, we could not reach each other till the next morning, and then I found a Rope, which

which a little before had like to have been my deſtroyer, to be my preſerver, for had I not caught hold on it, by good Fortune, juſt as it was thrown out, the Seamen being gotten on Board, the Waves had forced me off in the Boat alone, they not, in a caſe where Life was in the Ballance, regarding their exiled Priſoner: but being got again between ſtrong wooden Walls, my fears and cares vaniſhed, for as I had nothing but my Life to looſe, and that being ſaved I thought I ought to bleſs God rather than repine as others did, who made great Lamentation for what had periſhed in the Sea.

Long we had not Sailed in this ſecond Ship, but as great a ſtorm aroſe as before, and all Government being loſt, we were forced to let her drive before the Wind, the Maſts being over-blown or cut by the Board till ſhe ſtruck ſo vehemently againſt a Rock, that the horrid Noiſe would have even made, had it been poſſible, a dead Man ſtart; to which, adding the fearfull Cries of the Seamen, the whiſtling of the Winds, and the roaring of the Seas, that it ſeemed yet more terrible: but the Ship, by the violent force, ſticking faſt between two Rocks, we had time enough to leap out upon one of them, before the Sea broke her, and fetched her off, and day appearing, we found our ſelves

ſelves but little diſtance from the Shoar, ſo that the Sea being at Ebb, and having left the Sands almoſt dry we adventured over it, and once more getting firm footing, our joys were ſomewhat encreaſed, though our condition was bad enough, for we had nothing to ſubſiſt withall, and were to boot in a ſtrange Country, being caſt upon the Coaſt of *Spain*: however, conjecturing there was a Houſe not far diſtant, by the riſing of Smoak, which we ſuppoſed aſcended from a Chimney, we made thither-ward, ſteering our Courſe over Hedge and Ditch, by the direction of our Eyes, till at laſt we found our ſurmize to be true, and the Maſter of the Houſe ſtanding at the Door, to whom I ſpoke in Latin, giving him a brief account of our ſad Misfortunes; which not only made him pity us, but drew likewiſe Tears from his eyes, promiſing to ſupply us with the beſt Entertainment he had, which conſiſted for the moſt part of *Ola de Podrida*, being abundance of Herbs minced and boiled with a ſmall quantity of Meat, ſerved in the ſame kind, yet we at that time ſwallowed it very cordially, and ſhewed our ſelves very thankfull, eſpecially when he brought us a Flask of Wine, which much refreſhed our weary and weather-beaten Spirits: ſo that continuing here a day and a night, we deſired to take

take our leave, that we might pass to the next Port, there, if possible, to find a Passage for *England*: but I who feared to be Hanged if taken, upon my former Sentance for returning before the expiration of my limited time, was not so forward as the rest, which unwillingness he perceiving, and being much taken with my Conversation, he told me if I would be content to stay with him he would provide me a Place in a Ship under him, being in a short time to sail to the *East-Indias*. And now all the World being my Home but *England*, I cared not much whither I went, and being greatly desirous to see a Country of which I had heard so much by Report, I told him, since he had made me so kind an offer, I should be ingratefull should I refuse it, and therefore told him I was altogether at his Service, to be ruled by him as he should think most convenient.

I had not long stayed at his House but word was brought him that the Ship was ready, having received on Board her full Cargo; so that passing over Land to *Lisbon*, the Port where she lay, we went on Board, and the next day set Sail, weathering, in a very short time, a great Storm which made me suspect that the Sea was unwilling to bear a Person so notoriously wicked

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ed as my ſelf, though the Proverb runs contrary, *viz. The Sea and the Gallows refuſe none.* Being again at Sea, I notwithſtanding took heart, yet the Storm no ſooner ceaſed but we diſcovered three Veſſels, which, upon nearer view, proved to be *Turks* Men of War, who no ſooner eſpied their Prey but they Chaced us, and ſoon brought us up, we being deep loaden, and they light and nimble: however, we fought them for the ſpace of three hours, with great Courage; but finding our Ship miſerably rent with their Shot, and a great many Men killed and diſabled on Board, we thought it time to ſurrender, and indeed had we delayed it, they would have Boarded us, for there remained not Ten able Men to Man the Guns or defend the Ship

Being in the power of the Infidels, they clapped us under the Hatches, and ſuffered us to ſee no light till we landed at *Argiers*; and there having lain in a dark and noiſom Place, with Irons on our Legs and Hands, till the day of Sale for Slaves, we were, with a conſiderable Guard, to keep us from ſtarting, lead into the Market-place; where, after one had felt my Limbs that they were well joynted, as alſo ſeen my Mouth, to ſee if I had good Grinders, I was bought by a *Jew*, who carried me home and ſet me to

Grinding

Grinding in a Hand-Mill, feeding me with hard Bisket, and now and than some Rice-pottage, Water being for the most part my drink; yet if I performed not my Task, my cruel Task-Master would not fail to remember my back-side, with a twisted Whale-bone till the blood had trickled from my shoulders. And now having no hopes of escape from this worse than *Egyptian* Bondage, my Bed being only Straw or a hard Mat, I began to repent that I had accepted of my Reprieve, and wished for my self that I had dyed by the hand of the Executioner, where my pain would have been but short, rather than to have come to an intollerable slavery, of which I could expect no end but Death, which made me plot many things for my escape; but finding it impossible, seeing I had continually so many eyes upon me, and further understanding that the Coast was continually watched and my self every night locked up close Prisoner: however knowing my Patroon to be very covetous, and if he could have made as much of me dead as living, he had not cared how soon I would have hanged my self or cut my Throat, or perhaps he would have done it for me; I pretended, as indeed how could I do otherwise, much discontent, looking often very wildly, protesting I would rather dye a

thousand Deaths, than serve so cruel a Master; and one day proffering to cut my Throat when I knew I was watched, my Patroon had soon notice of it, and withall advized to sell me speedily, or I would certainly make away with my self; who thereupon taking the advice, Sold me to a *Greek*, and he being inwardly a Christian, though in that barbarous Place he durst not publickly profess his Religion, I quickly found my condition altered, for I was now treated with much mildness, which made my Work easie to me; with him I lived till such time as I made my escape in Disguise to some *Portugueeze* Ships that lay in the Road and came to redeem Slaves. And so coming to *Portugal* and there being destitute of Money and Friends I entered my self on Board an *East-India* Man, and prosecuted my former intended Voyage, suffering many Miseries by the way; but at last coming before *Diu* we found many Ships firing upon the Castle in a Hostile manner, and therefore not knowing the cause, we made to Sea again, and sailed to *Goa*, a large City inhabited by the *Portugalls*, and being upon a Trading Voyage we left that Place, and touched at many others, where I made a curious inquiry into the manners, Customs and Religion of the Natives, and found them for the most part strange,

strange, and in some Places, inhumane and monsterous: and at last coming into *Smalley* Road, I found there some *English* Ships, and being, by this time, very desirous to see my Native Country, I prevailed with my *Portugal* Captain, in lieu of the Pay that I had due to me when I should return into *Portugal*, to dismiss me; and thereupon, with much Joy, I entered my self on Board an *English*-man, being in a manner extasied, thus unexpectedly to enjoy again the Company of my Country-men, and they hearing me relate my many misfortunes and miseries since I first put to Sea, could do no less than condole me. And now I studied nothing more than to be an absolute Seaman, using my self, to be the better familiar with them, to all the hardships (which indeed are very many and great) to which Sea-men are accustomed or wont to undergo: and after some time, going on Shoar at *Bantam*, then an *English* Factory, I was very curious to pry into the way of Trade, and finding the Natives free to trust the Merchants till a certain day the Ships *Cargo* was taken in, knowing to what Ship they belonged, I altered my habit, and pretending my self to be a Merchant, took up a considerable quantity of valuable Goods that would lye in a small stowage of a Bannian, and in the dusk of

the Evening conveyed them on Board, ſtowing them in the ſide of the Ship, where I had looſned a lining Plank for that purpoſe. The day being come wherein I was to make payment or return ſatisfaction in Commodity, my Chapman came on Board, and enquired for ſuch a Merchant (for I had given him a falſe name) that bought of him, and brought on Board ſuch Goods; but the Captain told him there was no ſuch belonged to that Ship: whereupon the *Indian* imagining it was a Trick put upon him, deſired to ſee our Men, adding that he was confident he knew him again if he ſaw him: the Captain to gratefie him, as not well daring to do otherwiſe, cauſed us to come upon the Deck, where this cunning Infidel took a narrow ſurvey of us, one by one, and coming to me made a ſtop, at which my Heart was at my Mouth, thinking now I ſhould be puniſhed for breaking my promiſe of amendment, and living honeſtly, whilſt I was under the Apprehenſions of Death in *Newgate*. Having thoroughly ey'd me, he run to the Captain, telling him I ſhould be the Man, but I was a white Man, and had two Sees or Eyes; for indeed when I undertook this Exploit, I had ſmeered my Face, and put a patch upon one of my eyes, yet I was ſtrictly examin'd, but to no purpoſe, for I obſti-

nately

nately denyed ever to have seen this Man. Notwithstanding, for this Fact of mine, some of our Ships Company going on Shoar the next day, this *Bannian* instigated divers of his Accomplices to fall upon them, who killed one and wounded the rest, they hardly saving their Lives by flight to the Ship; which cautioned me not, for a considerable time to go on Shoar, and when I did I had like to have been Assassinated, had I not been warey and fore-armed, by which means I destroyed my intended Destroyer; and from that time proceeded with more security, Drinking at my Landing, Rack, Punch and Tea, often to excess, using especially one House, where, for the *Indian*-Womans sake that kept it, there was great Resort, who was indeed the handsomest that I had seen in the Country; so that perceiving she began to Court me, and, after her rude way, shew many Tokens of her sincere Love, perceiving at the same time, that she was very Rich, I got leave of my Captain in consideration she would become a Christian, to Marry her, which she accordingly doing, we were Married.

The End of the Second Part.

THE THIRD PART OF THE English Rogue;

CONTAINED

In the LIFE of

MERITON LATROON,

OR, THE

Witty Extravagant, &c.

CHAP. XVII.

He Contemplates his Settlement with his Indian *Wife. An* English *Ship Arrives, wherein are two of his former Mistrisses in disguise. And of the Acquaintance he gains,* &c.

BEing setled once more with a Wife, though a dark one, I was much respected both by Natives and Strangers, and what Money my Spouse got, which was not small by

by reason of the Trade we drove, I layed out for such advantagious Bargains as I could purchase, which I as advantagiously sold to the *European* Merchants and Factors that Traded in this Port; and what leasure times I had, I spent in visiting the Country and gaining knowledge of all that was any ways remarkable, which I did; as likewise to speak the Language in a short time, so that for the pleasantness of the Place, with which I was mightily taken, I began to think of spending the rest of my days in this remote part of the World, living in the midst of Plenty and in abundance of Felicity; nor long was it, to the furthering my Happiness, but several *English* Ships Arrived at this Port, richly Laden, against whose coming I had provided all sorts of Liquors and Provisions that the Country afforded: and so it fell out that the Captain and four more belonging to one of the Ships took up their Lodging near my House, by which means I had their Company every day, who were very well pleased with my Conversation, and upon two of these I more especially cast my Eyes, for they appeared exceeding beautifull, so that I began to suspect by many Passages I had observed, that they were not what they appeared to be, which made me conclude they were either Women in that Disguise, or

ſome Perſons that concealed their Quality, and therefore reſolved if poſſible to make a full Diſcovery: in order to which I ſingled out one of the Company in the abſence of the reſt, and having drank him to a conſiderable pitch, I entreated him to anſwer me one queſtion, which he promiſed to do; but when he heard what it was I deſired to be informed of, he ſtood for ſome time Mute, and then told me there was nothing beſides that, I could have asked him, which with more unwillingneſs he would gratefie me in; however, ſince his promiſe was paſt, if I would ingage to be ſecret and not diſcloſe it without his conſent, he would fully ſatisfie me; which with ſome proteſtations, I promiſing to obſerve, he told me plainly they were Women, who, for the Love of the Captain and his Friend, had undertaken to Travel thus far, and that they had nightly the injoyment of them; and in return or requital of this Diſcovery, I proceeded to give him an account of the paſt actions of my Life, at which he ſtood amazed: however that he might not be behind-hand with me altogether, he gave me a brief Relation of his own, and many other Paſſages that had fallen within the reach of his Knowledge, as in the following Chapters will more amply appear.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

He hears the Relation of the Birth, Parentage, witty and roguish Adventures of a Person come from England, *with whom he had had contracted a familiarity, and is very much taken and delighted therewith, &c.*

UPon inquiry into the Birth and Parentage of my Companion (I was said he) Born in the Suburbs of *London*, my Father was of the *Gentle craft*, and stiled himself a Translator; but business failing, he Rambled into the Country, and there he picked up my Mother from out of a crew of Gypsies or stroling Beggars; and long they Rambled up and down, till being weary of that Trade they came again to *London*, my Mother, in their Pilgrimage, having born him my elder Brother and my self. And no sooner were we settled in the small Partition of a House as Inmates, and we come to some small years of discretion, but my Father read us frequently Lectures upon the excellent qualities of a Thief, and so instilled the desire of Practice into our tender years, that my Brother at five years old betook him to Ramble the streets all day, and never return-

ed without some Booty, which was joyfully received by my Father, and instantly turned into strong Drink and Provision: but growing up, and aiming at greater things, he at last was taken in the Fact, and being, through the tenderness of his years, only found guilty of a Petty-larcenary for what really deserved the Gallows, he was so severely whipped by the unmerciful Hangman, that, not being well looked after, he languished for a time, and then dyed in Prison: which made my Father and Mother grieve exceedingly, not so much for his Death, but for the loss of the gain that accrued by his Life. And now their whole hope resting in me, my Father daily encouraged me, who was prone enough of my self, to go on couragiously and proceed to things worthy my Profession: which made me confederate with divers Companions, and one of them being a Servant to a Rich Usurer, it was agreed between us that by his connivance we should Rob his Masters House; and thereupon taking the opportunity of a dark Evening, we slipped in and plaited our selves very advantagiously, yet in our rummaging for Booty, some things we layed hold on slipping out of our hands, and falling down, the old Blade, whose Riches ran always in his Mind, suddenly awaked, and suspecting Thieves,

Thieves, called to his Man, and bid him rise and strike a light, who accordingly did, but soon returned and declared to his Master, who lay trembling and almost dead with fear, that he had made diligent search and could perceive nothing amiss; during which interval we had liberty to escape with a Cabinet, wherein was a considerable Sum of Money and some other things. But just as we were going out, we were seized on by a couple of Fellows that lay perdue to Arrest the Usurer's Brother, who had taken his House for Sanctuary, and seldom went abroad but early in the morning and late at night, and hearing the word of Arrest, my Companion, whom they took for him, cryed out Thieves, the noise so alarm'd the House, that trusty *Roger* perceiving how matters went, armed, as likewise did the Usurer's Brother, and came so furiously upon the Bayliffs, that they broke their Heads in a trice, and put them so hard to it, that they found themselves obliged to let us go, who stayed not to see the end of the Fray. But afterward our Companion coming for his share, told us that his Master finding his House to be Robbed had secured the Bayliffs, and notwithstanding the plausible pretences they made, procured them to be sent to Prison, in order to prosecute them the following Sessions. This

This purchase made my Father greatly rejoyce and much applaud my daring Resolution, and for a while we lived Riotously but our ill-got gain being spent, Poverty again began to pinch us, and caused for the supply of our present Necessities, our Goods to march out of the House by parcels to the Brokers, till at last nothing but the Walls were left us to look upon, and the Ground to lye on, which made us wrack our Inventions, and the Evenings being dark we resolved with two-pence, all the remainder of our Estate, to buy a Link, and putting it in practice, we Rambled the streets many an hour when at last luckily as we could wish, my Father espy'd a Shop-keeper, telling Money on his Counter, with only one Candle in the Shop; whereupon giving me Instructions I went in, and in an humble manner intreated to light my Link, which purposely I had extinguished, and so putting out the Candle I clapped my hand upon the Money getting a small handfull, and so fled as fast as speed would suffer me; and before he could get from behind the Counter, I was happily out of his reach, and whilst he was pursuing me, my Father entered and swept up all into his Hat, so that the Devil might have Danced without interruption, there being never a Cross to hinder him. This Money lasted

us

is a considerable time, but growing to a period, my Father ordered me to march out upon the Free-booting, and wandring all day without any considerable Adventure, I at last casting my eyes into a Bacon-shop, saw the Master of it with a good knob of money in his Pocket-apron, which made my mouth water to be fingering it; and so with the little stock I had, it not amounting to above a Groat, I entered and intreated him, making at the same time a very sowr Face, to cut me as much as he could afford for that money, over and above telling him that I was a poor Boy that lived with a severe Master that almost starved me, and therefore desired him to prevent its being found if I was searched, to thrust it down in my Handkerchief on my back-side, between my Doublet and Shirt, the which whilst he was doing I hasted to cut off his Pocket, that done, I layed down my Money and departed with much speed, marching home with great joy, but there, contrary to my expectation, I found my Mother in Tears, for my Father was pressed for a Souldier, yet at the sight of my purchase, she was something comforted: however, knowing it would not last long, we broke up House-keeping, and she undertaking to shift for her self, put me to a Brother of hers, who was a Suburbean Barber,

and

and soon after she dyed; so that now solely depending upon him, I used my diligence to please him in his sight, but no sooner his back was turned, ee'r I thought all my endeavours in Villany too slow: but my Aunt who was no Friend of mine narrowly watched me, and caused me one time to be severely beaten, for which I vowed revenge, and one day as she sate at work in the Shop, getting to the Sunney-side of her with a Burning-glass, I set her Ruffles and laced head-gear on fire, then starting up as in a maze, whilst she was crying out for help, I run, as to her assistance, and poured a bowl of dirty water upon her head; which, although it made her look like a Baud that had been Carted, and had stood a Battery of rotten Eggs and Turnips, she then took it kindly, concluding the Fire was a Judgment upon her from Heaven for her intollerable Pride. Yet not thinking my self sufficiently revenged I soon after found out a way to effect it.

My Mistriss, you must know, being too much troubled with the Itch of too many of her Sex, could not content her self with the Favours and Pleasures she received from my indulgent Uncle, but over and above had a private Friend, that used, in his absence, to visit her, which I had often noted, yet hitherto delayed to attempt any thing that might

night disturb their Recreation; but now being resolved on the contrary, I pretended to go of an Errand my Uncle had ordered before he went abroad, of which my Aunt was not a little glad, and thereupon she sent the Maid to Market; but whilst she thought me gone, I had planted my self under the stairs, and soon perceived my Gallant, who was a neighbouring Shop-keeper, enter the House, whom my Aunt meeting and clasping in her Arms, fell to kissing in a very amorous manner; and whilst he delayed to march up stairs, as not knowing whether all was safe, she said, nay, pish, why do you thus trifle now the Coast is clear? let us take time by the fore-lock, least we be prevented in our Design, in truth you are so long about the Prologue as may chance to marr the Comedy, make not such a long stop at the Porch but enter Love's Cittadel, and ransack the choicest Treasures that proceed from an intire Affection: and hereupon, after a short kiss, up stairs they went hand-in-hand, after whom I crept as if I had trod on Eggs, and softly locking the Door, got down again with the Key, and bestowed it in the Boghouse, which I scarce had done, but my Uncle came in, yet I being abroad, came puffing and blowing after him, as if I had come a considerable way; but he having occasion

for

for some Monies, went directly up stairs, where finding the door shut he knocked and called, to whom, at last, my Aunt with a faint Voice made reply, saying, Ah! dear Husband, I was lately taken with so great a swimming in my head, as not longer being able to sit up, I was forced to go up stairs and lye down upon the Bed, and in the mean time, I suppose your unhappy Kinsman, who minds nothing but mischief, has locked me in and carried away the Key. Upon this I was called and strictly examined, but stoutly denyed it; alledging that I rather believed, that whilst my Aunt slept some Thief had gotten into the Chamber and locked himself in; this suggestion so wrought in my Uncle's head, although my Aunt alledg'd it was impossible, that fearing the loss of his Mammon, he instantly sent for a Smith, who breaking up the door, entered, and there, upon Search, my Gallant was found under the Bed, almost dead with fear, whom my Uncle drew out by the heels, and buffeted without Mercy; though my Aunt, on her knees, pleaded for him and begged his pardon; and had not the Smith interposed, he had undoubtedly spoiled his Sport for the future, by taking away his sportive Part, accordingly to the old verse, *&c.* viz.

Make

Make me a Cuckold, Reading-Rogue?
no Pulpit ſerve but Suſans?
Muſt Suſans *Smock your Pulpit be?*
I'll take away the nuiſance.
And though he wept, and Wife did beg,
Churl ſlighted Words and Tears,
And at one gaſh he from him took
Musket and Bandeleirs.

However, he at laſt got away, bearing the marks of my Uncles indignation in his Face: and then he fell to rating and upbraiding my Aunt, but ſhe at laſt, with Tears, Intreaties and promiſes of amendment, calmed his Fury, and for the future, never controuled him in whatever he ſaid or did.

CHAP. XIX.

He makes a further enquiry after the Adventures of his Friend, and is accommodated with his various Fortunes, containing many pleaſant Stories and Relations, &c.

HAving played theſe and many other Exploits (continued he) and my Uncle now dying, I was again put to ſhift for my ſelf, and it was not long before I found a Tapſter that want-

wanted a Youth, and to him I put my self, and soon learned to Nick and Froth, score with double Chalk, steal away the Drink when Company were near flusterd or intent at Cards, and bring it them in again as fresh Liquor; find fault with their Tobacco, though never so good, that being out of conceit with it, they might call for some in the House: I found the way likewise to force the Drink with Drugs, whereby the Guests might quickly become drunk or rather stupified, and then I would either make them pay their Reckoning twice over or dive into their Pockets; sometimes we put Bay-salt in our drink, that the more they drank the dryer they might be: at other times Horse-radish to make them speedily evacuate it, that their Bellies might be fit for more, and learned so perfectly to cry By and by, Score at the Bar, anon, anon, Sir, that I had every thing at my fingers ends: but in the height of my expectations, I was dashed, for having been a little over-familiar with *Prudence* our Maid, and her Belly beginning to wamble, I thought it time to be packing, and so scraping together what I could conveniently, away I marched.

Long I had not Rambled before I was entertained by a Cook, and here I observed many Tricks and Knaveries, as making

Pyes

ves with Meat cut off the Hides in *Leaden-*
Market, Roasting Meat twice, buying
ggars Meat, and mincing or hashing it for
r Gues's, nicking and frothing our Pots
d Juggs, *&c.* But long I had not been
re, before my Father, who was returned
a lamentable poor and tattered Condition,
und me out, & became importunate with me
steal something and deliver it to him for
e supply of his necessities, which accord-
gly I did, *viz.* a Silver Bowl; whereupon
night, when my Master came to lock up
e Plate, it being missing, great enquiry was
ade about it, and so far it was pressed,
at to clear our selves, the Maid proposed
go to the Conjurer about it, and who, by
e general consent, should we pitch upon
t one not far from the famous Castle of
King *Lud*, wherein Men, only free, are
oom'd to loose their liberty, by whose
oks you wou'd take him to be a second *Cor-*
lius Agrippa, acquainted with the power of
Destiny and Fate, and as familiar with the
Stars as *Tycho Brahæ*, though his Wife, at
the same time, laments the decay of
his Capacity, and protests the too too flatu-
lent humours have obscured the *Radix*, and
left the most subtil part devested of its
due performance, *&c.* To this proficient
in Astrology we came, who, after the
notice

notice he had received from his Man, about what business we came, advanced from his Study in great pomp and state, and took his Seat in a large Chair, expecting our offering before he would afford us a Syllable, whereupon, laying down a Hog, as the Gypsies term it, *Anglice* a shilling, like *Balaam's* Ass, he began to open his Mouth, when he, to no purpose, had made many cringle crangles upon a Paper, from whence proceeded these learned Sentences: *Jupiter*, says he, being Lord of the Ascendant, denotes good luck for the gaining of your Beaker, did not *Mars* interpose with a malevolent Aspect, reflecting his Rays on *Mercury*, whilst *Jupiter* is combust in *Aries* a forked sign, and *Venus* in the fierey *Trigon*; these considerations and *Saturns* being in the Cusp of *Taurus*, denotes that the Party who had the Beaker lives either *East*, *North*, *West* or *South*, and it must needs be above or under-ground in one of these Parts of the World; upon which he asked us whether there was not a Man with Carrot-hair and and a red Beard, that day drinking in the House: No, replyed the Wench, nor, says he, was there not one with black hair, no, said she, nor with brown said he, with grey Cloaths, of a middle stature, yet neither tall nor low, yes said she, I believe there was. Then he proceed-

ed

to ask us whether or not we knew him; which we answered in the Negative, whereupon the Sun, said he, being ill-posited in the eleventh House and *Mercury* in the same with *Virgo*, it was past all peradventure a brown-haired Man that had your Plate, having on the cloaths you have heard me describe: upon which I asked him (least my Father should be known by the description upon a second coming) though since I am satisfied he knew no more than a Gander whether it might not be a Woman? no, said he, very gravely, for *Venus* being weak in the Reception with *Gemini*, and the Moon in the detriment or decrease, both feminine Planets, they plainly demonstrate tho Thief to wear Breeches, and consequently to be a Man, and between forty and fifty years of age: upon my Life, says the Wench, I remember the Party that had it, and the Doctor has rightly described him, for he was between Twenty and Thirty years of Age, and had a black Suit on, I served the Rogue six peny-worth of Roast Beef, and I find by my Hand neither that nor Silver would choak him, but if e'er I see him again, I will maul him to some purpose. And with this story she went home to our Master and Mistriss, which absolutely freed me from suspicion, and afterward I pilfered divers other

other things of moment ſecurely; but the Peſtilence coming on, our Houſe was viſited, and accordingly ſhut up, with the diſmal Characters upon the door; and we having Nurſes alotted us, they ſoon made away my Miſtriſs and her Daughter, and then with ſlip-ſlops began to practice upon my Maſter and my ſelf, which I perceiving, admoniſhed him of it: however they no ſooner had notice that we were aware of them, but they began to uſe violence, which made us cry out; whereupon a Kinſman of my Maſters who was a Shoe-maker, and then Overſeer for the Poor, came ſtrutting like a Crow in a Gutter and ſoon rid us of the greateſt Plague that infected us, *viz.* our Nurſes; yet I being intent to be my Maſters Executor whether he would or no, by giving him cold Liquors, ſoon obliged him to kick up his heels: Notwithſtanding a Will was found wherein I had only allowed me Twenty pounds, and as for the Trunks, wherein I ſuppoſed there was ſtore of ready Money, contrary to my expectation, the Nurſes by the help of falſe Keys had plundred them: nor did my Maſter's Kinſman, who was made Executor, fail to cheat me of the greater part of what was left me. However, I was put 'Prentice to a Plaiſterer, when ſo it happened, that the firſt week it fell out that

we

ve had a Job of work to beautifie the out-
de of a Tavern towards the River of *Thames*,
tting over the Water, to accompliſh which
ny Maſter layed two Poles out at the Win-
ow, and upon them tacked down Boards
ith ſmall Nails, but wanting a Cord to ta-
en one of the Poles within, he ordered me
o ſit upon it, but whilſt he was ſinging at
is Work very merrily, I fell aſleep, when
arting on a ſudden, as dreaming my old
Maſter the Cook was alive again, and our
Houſe full of Gueſs, and hearing ſome Peo-
le knock in the Room below, I cryed com-
ng, coming Sir, by and by, and thereupon
unning to ſee what they wanted, between
leep and wake, up kicked the Pole for want
of my weight to poiſe it, and down went my
Maſter, Scaffold, Pots and all, crying all
the way for help, when being a little better
come to my ſelf, and conſidering what had
appened through my defect, I looked out at
the Window where I could perceive him bob-
ing his head above water, and floating like
a ſhittle-cock, and not expecting but he
would be drowned, and that I ſhould be
brought in queſtion for it, I ſtood not long to
pauſe, but packed up what things I had
there and marched off with great ſpeed; nor
could I think my ſelf ſafe in *London*, but
betook me to the Country, and there fell to

Ramb-

Rambling, but finding the little money I had near ſpent, and knowing I ſhould have but cold comfort when it was gone, it being now in the Extremity of Winter, I caſt many things in my mind, but could frame nothing material for my advantage, when at laſt, as I was ſauntering along the Road, fortune guided my ſteps to a little thatched Ale-houſe, where by an exceeding good fire I found a Company of ſtroling Beggars of both Sex, amongſt whom, after ſome diſcourſe and ceremony, I lifted my ſelf and was Dubbed Knight of the Ragged Order, by the pouring a Pot of Ale on my Head whilſt I kneeled for that purpoſe, and ſo having a young Mort given me for my Companion, we took leave of the reſt, and proceeded with ample inſtructions in ſearch of our Fortunes, when ſo it fell out, that coming to a Farmer's Houſe, and being much deſirous of a hollow bit, I whipped up a Hen, and having ſoon ſpoiled her Cackling, put her in my Budget, and ſo proceeded to the Man's Door that owned her, in a dolefull Tone, intreating his Charity to a poor, lame and wretched Creature; but he having from a Window obſerved my former Exploit, ſent privately for the Conſtable, cauſing me to be apprehended, when, upon ſearch, the Fact appearing plain, and upon their unbind-

ing

ding my Clouts and Rowlers, there being no Lameneſs, a Council was called and immediately I was doomed to the Whipping-poſt, and a Thraſher, provided with a Cart Whip, to put the Sentence in Execution, who being accuſtomed to the Flail, layed on with ſo hard a hand, that I could imagine no leſs, but that he intended to make Chaff of me; but the abundance of Blood that flowed, prevailed with the Spectators to take him off e'er he could perfect it: yet I was afterward to go before a Juſtice of the Peace to be Tryed after I had been Executed, which, however, although I thought it ſevere, I ſubmitted to it, but found no further Puniſhment than to be Paſs'd back to *London*: yet ſo far wrought the terror of my diſaſter in the mind of my Mort, that fearing the like puniſhment, ſhe made what haſt ſhe poſſibly could from me, and from that day I ſaw her no more.

Being bound for *London*, I had not paſſed through the Hands of above three or four Conſtables, before I gave them the ſlip, and ſo travelled on: but it being late, I was overtaken by three Fellows, who demanded what I was, I told them a poor diſtreſſed Creature, oppreſſed by the ſeverity of an adverſe fortune; whereat perceiving I might be for their turn, they demanded whether

I would hazard my ſelf in an Enterpriſe they were then about, and if ſo, I ſhould be conſiderably rewarded: to which I replyed, that no danger ſhould delay me from doing it, if happily my Neceſſities might be ſupplyed. Then they told me it was to Rob a Houſe, wherein they were ſure of a good Booty, and that my part in this Undertaking ſhould be to get in at the Window, which by reaſon of my ſlenderneſs I might do, and ſo open the door, which accordingly I performed, and ſo with drawn Swords three of us marched up ſtairs, and one ſtayed below, whom I afterwards underſtood to be the Coach-man that had brought the Gentleman home that night with 200 *l.* nor was it long e'er we bound and gagg'd him, his Wife and the Maid-ſervant, and ſo got what we came for, my ſelf over and above rifling ſome private Places unknown to my Companions, getting a good quantity of broad Gold, ſome Rings and a Watch, and ſo marched off; and about five miles from the place, they gave me fifteen pounds and diſmiſſed me; which happened in a fortunate hour, for ſoon after, they went to a blind Ale houſe, and drinking Healths to their good ſucceſs, made themſelves ſo drunk, that not being able to remove thence, the Hue and Cry the next morning overtook them

them, and the Assizes presently following, they were all condemned to be hanged, though the Coach-man only found that fate, the other two, at the great intercession of their Friends, who were very wealthy, procuring the favour to have the Sentance of Death changed into a Seven years Banishment; and I by this time having bought me a fashionable Suit and Cloak, at a Country Fair, some fifteen miles thence, marched to *London*, and in my way overtook a brisk Lass who passed with me for my Wife: so that now I revelled in the Joys of Love, and had store of monies to heighten it, for Love, if not supported by Wealth, especially of this kind, soon decays: and this Lass told me of two more of her quality, who in a Country Ramble had been pawned by their Gallants in an Inn on the Road for Five pounds, assuring me they were very handsome and airey, which so fired my inclination to be with them, that I soon went and Redeemed them, and so by the addition of their Conversation, encreased my Revels in Love, it not being in their power to deny me one kindness for another. However, being over-tired with excess of Pleasure, and my Money beginning to shrink, I left them and put my self Apprentice to a Taylor, where I observed and learned so many Cheats, Tricks and Rogueries, that,

should I number them, they would scarcely gain belief; but one somewhat comical amongst the rest, I shall relate, which was thus.

An old Gentleman of a very precise temper, bringing to my Master so much Cloth as would make him a Sute and Cloak, that he might have his Breeches the warmer, brought over and above as much as would double them, that when the upper Cloth began to decay, the other might serve, especially for Summer; but my Master thinking it too good for such a use, and imagining one Cloth might last out the old Man's Life-time, he put between the outward part and the lining an old painting Cloath that had been the Hanging of some Room; when so it happened, that going over a Stile a snag or splinter rent the Breeches, and just against the slit appeared the Devil with a Muck-fork, which obliging the amazed Gentleman to look further, he plainly perceived more Devils tormenting *Dives* in the flames, which put him in such a fright that he fell into a cold sweat to think that he had got Hell-fire in his Breeches; when hastily pulling them off he unripped the other part and there found the Prodigal Son Revelling with Harlots, which made him as soon he could recover himself from the fear and amazement he was in,

come

come to my Maſter with them under his Arm, chaffing at a ſtrange rate, and charging him with knavery and defraud; but finding my Maſter would make him no reply, but wiſhing with up-lifted eyes and hands he might find the Cloath in Hell if he had it, meaning by way of Equivocation, under his Shop-board, he threw down the Breeches and marched away in a great fret. But long was not with this Maſter e'er he fell ſick, and dyed, as the Searchers gave it in, of a Stitch in his ſide, and by this means I was again put to my ſhifts.

CHAP. XX.

His Friend further proceeds in a very comical Relation of his Affairs, and lays open many Tricks and Knaveries, he having run through many Trades, Profeſſions and Tranſactions worthy of note.

I Having heard thus much from my new Companion, I perceived he had pretty well followed my ſteps in many things, but had not arrived at my height of wickedneſs, and therefore being deſirous to know what brought him to this remote part of the world,

after we had drank a Glass or two to refresh our Spirits, I intreated him to proceed, which accordingly he did.

I was not, continued he, so much out of love with the Taylors Trade, in which many advantages fell to my share, as the shippings of Gold and Silver lace, the stretching and rubbing out the plated or rich part, the snips of silks, old pockets and linings, with many other things, but I resolved to follow it, and so got to be a Journey-man to a Master, that had great Customers of shipping Apprentices, to whose private Meetings he often resorted, and frequently sent me, where I commonly found them Revelling with their Lasses, and spending to excess, every one having a Mistris, whom they maintained at their Master's Charge. And from this Confederacy I had a Relation how Booksellers pyrate upon each other, and strive to stifle the preferment of all Copies but their own: how they hackney Authours to death and then laugh at their Destruction: how, though seeming Precisians, they Print baudy and seditious Books when they find they will turn to their advantage; and in their Partner-ship over-reach one another by the many sly Tricks and subtil contrivances they use; and many other things of the like nature, too tedious to be incerted in so small a Volume.

Here

Here I was informed that it is uſual with Scriveners to counterfeit Seals of Corporations, and ſet dead Men's Hands to Wills, by guiding them to write their names: as alſo the ways they have to draw young Heirs into Bonds and Mortgages; and what Methods they take to fruſtrate the Statute againſt Extortion: How by procuring Statutes ſtaple and Confeſſion of Judgment, they wring, for ſmall conſiderations, conſiderable Eſtates out of the hands of the true Owners. Here I found by report how Shopkeepers of all ſorts, not only over-reach each other, but decoy and trappan their Cuſtomers many ways, *&c* And laſtly, how 'Prentices frequently live upon the ſpoil, *&c.* inſomuch that I found my ſelf very much out-done, and concluded the former Actions of my Life inſignificant.

One night as we had been late at theſe Revels and were reeling home, I and two more met the Watch in their Rounds, and one of my Companions giving the Conſtable ſomewhat uncivil Anſwers, we were ſent to the Counter, and the next day carried before one of the Aldermen of the City, then in being, who obliged us to pay ſo much to the Poor for being Drunk, which made us at our next Meeting ſtudy Revenge; and thus I brought it to paſs, *viz.* Watching an op-

portunity, I found him ſtanding at his door, and ſo boldly with my Taylors Bag under my Arm I went up to him, and deſired to know if his Maid, whoſe name I had gotten for the purpoſe, was within, yes ſays he, why then, ſaid I, if it pleaſe your worſhip, I will with your leave go and carry her the Gown ſhe gave me the other day to mend: And are you her Taylor? ſays he, yes and it pleaſe your Worſhip I have been ſo for two years paſt, ſaid I, well replyed he, ſhe is a good Girl, ſhe has been a good Servant to me, and may chance to make you a good Wife, upon this making a ſcrape or two, I paſſed him, and going directly to the Maid I demanded her Maſter's Scarlet Gown, which he purpoſed to have altered, who having ſeen me from the Window diſcourſing with him, made no ſcruple to deliver it, which being folded up, I put it into my Bag and ſo returned, the Alderman ſtanding ſtill at the Door, who as I paſſed him, perceiving I had a greater bulk than before in my Bag, ſaid, well young Man, I ſee ſhe has found you more work, and it may be ſhe may find you another ſort of work before long, if ſhe perceives you dexterous at this: I replyed not, but making a low congee, went ſmiling off, and was highly careſſed and applauded by my Companions for my dex-

dexterity, who gave me two pieces, and payed me over and above for converting the Gown into two Petticoats for their Wenches, desiring only for the Charge they put them to, the first taking them up, which accordingly they did as I suppose to their satisfaction. Nor was it my least business to be intimate with the Masters of many of these Blades, for whom, when they had any Commodity that lay heavy upon their hands, I scouted abroad, and frequently gave earnest for Goods of that nature, to those whom I knew must buy them of the Parties I scouted for, not caring much what I bid, as never intending to fetch them, as having the Earnest before given me, and money over and above for my pains.

My Friend *Gregory* (for that was his name) had no sooner ended his Relation, but his Companions came in search of him, and so from Discourse we fell to Drinking.

CHAP. XVI.

He discovers his two former Mistrisses, viz. a young Gentlewoman he had bereaved of her Virginity at the Boarding-School: and the Farmer's Daughter whom he deceived in the Country, and has the Relation from the Lips of her various Fortunes since he left her.

ALthough I was thus far satisfied, yet my longing ceased not, I was very desirous to know who these Women were, for I could not but fancy I had seen them somewhere in *England*, and soon, as I wished, I found them retired by themselves, the Men being all gone on Board to manage the Affairs of the Ship; wherefore addressing my self with much respect and reverence, I entreated them not to be offended or amazed if my prying eyes had pierced into their secret quality, for I was confident they were not what by their Garb they seemed to be; at which they blushed and looked wishfully upon each other, but I still pressing them to pardon my boldness, for the secret should pass no further, they took courage, and ingeniously confest they were of the other Sex, and promised me I should, which I most

moſt paſſionately deſired, ſee them in few days in their own Garbs, which accordingly I did, being invited by the Captain on Board his Ship; and then I having been a long time accuſtomed only to the ſight of the Natives, imagined I never had ſeen any Women ſo lovely and charming, telling them that if the Prince of this Country was but ſenſible what a Treaſure he had within the power of his Dominion, he would immediately covet to be poſſeſſed of it: to which one of them briskly, yet ſomewhat modeſtly replyed, though ſhe could not perſwade her ſelf any ſuch excellency remained in her, yet the choice ſhe had made ſhe preferred to all the Princes of *Aſia*, nor could ſhe expect ſuch ſolid content in any: and ſo having ſpent the time in merriment to the great ſatisfaction of all Parties, I took my leave inviting them the next day to my Houſe, where I highly entertained them; when after the repaſt, our two Miſtriſſes, by reaſon of the heat, continued ſtill with me; and being left by their Enamorato's whilſt they went to take in ſome Goods, I thought it was now my time to diſcourſe them, and being free with each other, I ſoon found that I had been intimately and inwardly acquainted with them in *England*, one of them being a young Gentlewoman, whom in the Boarding-

ing School I had deceived in Female habit, and the other the Farmer's Daughter whom I had left with Child, at which unexpected meeting they wept, nor could I refrain comforting them in the best manner, promising them my assistance in any Affair whatsoever, and heartily begged their pardon for what was past, which cleared up the showrs that clouded their eyes; and so I proceeded to intreat them to let me know how it had fared with them since we saw each other in *England*, and especially what was become of the hopefull Fruits of our stolen Loves, and this they promised me in order, and first my Boarding-School Mistris, whose name was *Mary*, began.

I remember, said she, after you had gotten your ends of me and several others, in all to the number of eight, you made your escape, nor indeed, by reason of my youth and innocence, did I know the danger I was in, but supposed my Qualms and Sickness to be accidental, but our Mistris who was better experienced soon suspected the cause, and upon strict examination found the naked truth, which occasioned a speedy pursuit after you, but by a lucky mistake, it seems, you escaped the purposed revenge, which was, if you had been taken, as we once had notice you were, to make you an Eunuch

at

at least, but it seemed a mistake, for instead of you, your Friend was brought to our Mistriss, who, after she had well stormed thereat, was constrained, with as little noise as possible, to give our Friends and Relations an account of what had happened, upon which my Father, though before he loved me, utterly renounced me, yet his hatred towards me was not so great but that he connived, as I well understood, at my Aunts receiving of me, with whom, for the better privacy, I lived, mewed up like a Hawk, till I was delivered of a Girl; which, to prevent my further disgrace, was sent into the Country, and from that time, though I laboured to do it, I could get no knowledge of it; yet being freed from my Burthen with much secrecy, I appeared abroad with strict caution never to commit the like folly again; and passing for a Virgin of considerable Fortune, my Father being known to be very Rich, I was courted by a young Gentleman of a plentifull Estate, who not only made me divers Presents, but used all the endeavours possibly to please me, as the time permitted, and sought every little opportunity that might give occasion of introducing him into my Company, and so pleased he was with me, that he pressed my Aunt to perswade me to give my consent, who not only

only did her endeavours, but acquainted my my Father with the overture, who by this time, somewhat relenting, and taking pity of my tender frailty, did not only apyrove of it, but offered a considerable Sum of Money, so that no obstacle remaining, our Wedding was agreed upon and my Joynture proposed, when as my unlucky Stars would have it, my Maid, who was privy to my former misfortune, having taken pet at some language I had given her for her too much confidence and intrusion into my Affairs, concluded to be revenged in the overthrowing my approaching Felicity, and at several times having received considerable Gifts from my Lover, she one day singled him out, and told him, that in meer compassion to him to prevent his being abused, she thought it convenient, before he Married, to reveal a Secret, upon which his future Tranquility or Misfortune might depend; and thereupon, to his no small amazement, she told him that if he Married me he must expect to be a Father the first day, and so declared, from point to point, all that had befaln me; to which at first he could not give credit, considering the modest reception I made of his Addresses, and therefore resolved to inform himself further by experience, wherefore he enjoyned her silence, upon the promise

miſe of a conſiderable Reward if ſhe obeyed: and ſo, ſoon after, he prevailed with my Aunt to let me Ride abroad with him to take the Air, which at firſt ſhe refuſed, but at laſt, through importunity, he prevailed; and coming to a Tavern, ſome miles diſtant from *London*, he there treated me to an extraordinary height, and procured the Hoſtler to prick his Horſes foot, that he might have a longer pretence of ſtaying, calling for Wine he made me drink, by ſundry devices and intreaties, ſo high, that I became in a manner ſtupid; and then he began to rumidge my Placket, and ſoon found my Virginity had made its *Exit*, though at that time he proceeded no further than to give himſelf an outward aſſurance, and ſo carried me home; where, upon our Arrival my Aunt chid us both ſeverely for our unſeaſonable ſtaying abroad, but he now little regarding it, made many careleſs replys, though I on the contrary uſed all means imaginable to pacifie her, by urging my obedience to a Man whom I could eſteem no other than my Husband, ſeeing our Marriage was altogether concluded on: however he came not near me for ſeveral days, but ſent for my Maid and procured her to perſwade me to meet him without the knowledge of my Aunt, which accordingly, unhappy to my Peace, I did,

I did; and then he perſwaded me to be ruled by him, and betake my ſelf to a Lodging he had provided for me, till he could prepare things in order for our Marriage, which, upon many intreaties and large promiſes, I conſented to; but when night came, and we had all the day paſſed for Man and Wife, I knew not how to behave my ſelf, many things I urged againſt going to Bed with him, but by his reitterated proteſtations of Marriage the next day, he over-perſwaded me, and I again yielded to Folly; after which, he made many delays, and in the end abſolutely left me; when reſolving to caſt my ſelf rather into the Arms of Fortune than to return to my Aunt, it was not long e'er I was ſollicited by a ſeeming grave Gentlewoman to ſojourn at her Houſe, who over and above defrayed the charge of my Lodging; but I ſoon found I was again trapanned, for ſhe proved no better than a Bawd in hunting fleſh, expoſing the uſe of mine to her chief Cuſtomers, often ſelling that for a Maiden-head that was long before cancelled: but in ſome time being grown expert in the way, I ſet up for my ſelf, yet at laſt being troubled with ſundry hangers on who had ſpent their Eſtates upon me, and finding the trouble of a common Trade unſupportable, I betook my ſelf to a ſingle Perſon, for whoſe

whose sake I have ventured thus far; and thus you have briefly heard how I have fared since you left me.

CHAP. XXII.

He intreats the like Account from the second, and is gratified therein, being very pleasant and comical, with all the Circumstances that attended the Progress of her Life and Actions. His Wife poisons them, kills her self. He meets with another of his Mistresses, returns for England, and is Ship-wrack'd.

Having heard this pleasing Relation from my first Mistris, was greatly desirous to understand the Adventures of the second, wherefore I became very earnest in perswading her to be free in the Relation; in which, after some seeming unwillingness, she condescended to gratifie me, considering a great part of the day remained unspent, and so she proceeded in order.

You are not, said she, insensible of the condition you left me in, nor was it long before it was more fully manifested, for I was, at the expiration of the usual time, Delivered of a curious Boy, which my Mother,

ther, to hide my ſhame and the ſtain it would caſt upon our Family, committed to the charge of a parcel of ſtroling Gypſies, with a ſum of money and all other neceſſaries, though extreamly againſt my will; but no ſooner was I got up again, e'er I found by the ſecret whiſperings in the Neighbourhood, that my fault was diſcovered, which made me earneſt with my Parents, who entirely loved me, to ſend me to *London*, which accordingly they, not without regret, did; and ſo it fell out that the Maſter of the Inn where I firſt alighted, at that time wanted a Servant, there I was entertained: but long I had not continued diligent in this Service, before my Maſter's Brother and two more that were Lodgers there, caſt not only their Eyes but their Affections upon me, and by degrees, with large promiſes and gifts, prevailed upon my Female frailty, though unknown to each other, which gave me, when I grew pregnant, an opportunity to fleece them, and accordingly I did, getting in Bonds and Money very conſiderable, and ſo prepared once more for the Country; but alighting at an Inn upon the Road, I was ſeverely eyed by a Perſon in Female habit, who indeed proved to be no other than a Woman who waited there for ſuch a Prize as my ſelf, and underſtanding my condition by

by many obſervations ſhe made, I was deſired to give her my Company in a private Room, the which, after ſome ſcruples on my part, and many intreaties on hers, I did; and then ſhe began to embrace me in her arms, and promiſe me a World of fortunate ſucceſs; but to be brief her deſign was to find whether or not I was with Child, the which ſhe having done, and being fully ſatisfied how it came about, told me that a golden offer attended me, and a great Eſtate my Child, if I would yield my ſelf to be wholly governed by her Counſel and Directions; but before I would conſent, I deſired her to declare her ſelf, and thereupon ſhe told me that ſhe was employed by a Gentlewoman who had a Husband that was an infirm Man, and ſhe her ſelf, though ſhe had many ways tryed for an Heir to ſave her Husband's Eſtate from going to the next Brother who had been the occaſion of her Barrenneſs, and of her Husband's defect, by ſiniſter ways, through the means of Purgations and Poiſons, could not have one of her own, but had contrived to get one of anothers, to fruſtrate his hopes whom ſhe mortally hated; and that my Child, if I ſo conſented, ſhould enjoy the Eſtate. To this, after I had a little conſidered, I agreed; and therefore was conducted to the Gentlewoman

man, who seeing my Garb and Beauty, took me for some extraordinary Person, and could not at first believe that I would condescend to her Request; but being better satisfied by the old Woman, she crammed several pieces of Gold into my hand, as an earnest of a greater Sum, and thereupon appointed me a private Lodging, with all manner of necessaries, about a mile from her House, and still as my Belly increased, she having before given out she was with Child, hers increased by Artificial means, and when my Throws came upon me she had speedy notice of it and counterfeited the like, which made her Husband both grieve and rejoyce, the first for the pain he supposed his Wife endured, and the second in hopes he should have an Heir; and no sooner was I delivered but the old Matron, that attended me, wrapped up my Child and carried it privately to the Gentlewoman, when lifting up the Cloaths she softly tumbled it into the Bed, and then she counterfeiting what is usual in that case, it was again taken from her, and the Women which were about her being obliged to keep the fallacy private, it being a Boy, passed current for hers, to the great Joy of the Husband and Discontent of the Brother, who now supposing his stratagem, to prevent her conceiving, had failed, in a melancholly humour

humour betook himself to Travel: and now perceiving my Child exceeding well provided for, and no cost spared in Nurses, or whatever else was requisite, and having received a hundred pieces of Gold, and some other Presents I again returned to *London*, yet shunned my former amorous Companions, and placed my self in another Inn where for a time I lived very civil, but in the end came acquainted with the Person under whose protection I now am, having seen, and passed through, many and various Adventures in expectation of seeing you, on whom my first Love and intire Affections were settled, which satisfaction I now unexpectedly enjoy.

She would have proceeded, but was interrupted by the coming in of divers Strangers, and now having continued in all manner of felicity, and the Ship being in a manner Laden, I had frequent debates with my self whether I should not pack up all I had and embarque again for my native Country: But whilst these things were in my head, my Wife fell desperately in Love with these two supposed Gentlemen, and to heighten the Comedy, though it proved a Tragedy in the end, I perswaded them to give way to her Addresses; and to ingratiate her self the more, she blacked her Face to a greater de-

gree

gree than Nature had ordered the Women of that Country, accounting it as the chiefeſt part of their Beauty; with which ſhe coming to Bed to me that night, I being ſomewhat fluſter'd, ſo beſmeered me, that riſing the next morning, and not being ſenſible of the alteration, I could not for a time prevail with my Companions to credit me that I was my ſelf. However, ſhe ſtill increaſed in her amorous way, watching when ſhe might get any of theſe two alone, which one time ſhe did, and aſſaulted them ſo rudely, in the way of her Courting, that ſhe put them to the ſqueak, and much adoe they had to prevent her diſcovering what Sex they were of; of which I having notice, gave her a ſevere check, whereupon ſhe fell upon her knees and implored my Pardon, intreating me to forgive this offence, and ſhe would ever be humble and obedient for the future; the which, when I perceived, I making ſome ſcruple to do, the better to let her know how much I was incenſed, ſhe drew a Dagger out of her Pocket and offered to sheath it in her Breaſt, but being prevented she ſoon after mixed ſtrong Poyſon to make her ſelf away; whereupon I was obliged to give her abundance of good words, aſſuring her I was altogether pacified, ſealing my proteſtations with a Kiſs, notwithſtanding I found

ſhe

he ſtill hankered after theſe fair *Europeans*, nd appeared much melancholly and diſcon-ented the day ſhe ſaw them not, & would often ake excuſes to viſit them, which gave them much trouble by reaſon of her rude beha-iour that upon their intreaty I found my lf obliged to command her to refrain from oming into their Apartment, which raiſed uch a Hell in her mind that she could not eſt till she had bribed an *Indian* Wench who aited on them to mix a flask of *Perſian* Vine, their uſual Drink in a morning, with rong Poyſon, which her ſelf prepared, reſol-ing none should enjoy thoſe Beauties which he, though miſtaking at the ſame time the ex, was forbidden to converſe withal; nd accordingly her project took effect, for Mrs. *Mary* immediately dyed, her hair, ails and teeth preſently falling off and out, y the ſubtil operation of the Venom, and he other who had drank but ſlenderly was or a long while bereaved of her ſenſes; and his was the diſaſter of my two Miſtriſſes.

This wicked Fact committed, the Actoreſs fled, and was found ſome time after dead in a Wood miſerably rent by wild Beaſts, and my Wife fearing to be diſcovered, killed her ſelf with a Dagger ſhe privately wore, ſo that though I grieved for the misfortune of theſe two Women whoſe Virgin-Innocence I had

had betrayed, expoſing them thereby to a deſperate Fortune; yet by the ſhift I was rid of a Wife I no ways affected, and now I abſolutely determined to return for *England*, and thereupon played my Cards the beſt I could to get in Goods of the Natives, ſome of which I payed for and others I took up on ſhort credit, according as the cuſtom is; and watching the time the Ship was to Sail, I embarqued with all my Cargo, yet wanting full freight we ſailed to *Surrat*, where an *Engliſh* Ship was juſt arrived before us; and here, upon my Landing, I was encounter'd by a ſtripling or ſeeming Gentleman, who fixing his Eyes on me, deſired to have ſome words with me in private, which granted he fell to reproaching me at a ſtrange rate by the Epithites of baſe, perjured, ingrateſull and treacherous, which did not a little amaze me, and made me inquire into the cauſe, when ſoon I found that this ſeeming Gentleman was no other than *Jane* my fellow-ſervant whom I had gotten with Child at my Maſters, as is related in the Firſt Part of my Life, and whom I had unkindly trappan'd on Board a *Virginia*-man, which made me after I had begged pardon and hushed her, inquire of her Adventures, who told me her Child dyed for want of convenient neceſſaries at Sea, and her ſelf was reduced

to

so sad a condition through sickness and discontent, that no Person would buy her, so that the Master concluding she could not live many days, set her on Shoar to discumber himself of her; where, in her languishing condition, she found so much compassion from a charitable Gentlewoman, as to be received into her House, and provided for, which again brought her to her Strength and natural Complection, insomuch that diverse Persons Courted her: but being desirous to see her native Country, and find out if possible, the Captain, with whom she now was, prevailed with her upon a promise to Marry her as soon as he came into England, to accompany him, which accordingly she did, and relying upon that promise, she suffered him to enjoy her; but upon his arrival he plainly told her he could not perform what he had proposed, by reason he had a Wife living, but that she notwithstanding, should have the best place in his affections; and thereupon providing her these Cloaths and all other necessaries, she had once more adventured to Sea with him: however upon new protestations of Constancy and real Affection, and a hearty sorrow for what was past, laying it upon the fear of my Master's Anger, I prevailed with

her not only to come on Board our Ship just as we were setting Sail, but likewise to bring with her five hundred pieces of Eight, a box of rough Diamonds, and many other things of value, and so we came for *England*, leaving only these Lines on floor for the Captain, that he might know what was become of his Mistris and Money, *&c.* viz.

Captain we now are quit against your will,
This is the Sum that must discharge our Bill.
Imprimis, *so much for lying by her side,*
And breaking promise, made her not your Bride.
Item, *for changing Pettiwoats for Hose.*
Item, *for something which I won't disclose.*
Item, *for making such a pretty toy*
Your wanton Mistris, and your Cabbin-boy;
Whom morning, noon and sometimes very late
Fail'd not to make your charming trickre-mate.
Thus stands th' Account, and now we're even
Discharging you of what we did intrust: (just,
If not quite Broke, for some new Credit look,
You ne'er shall enter more into our Book.

Being gotten over the Bar with all our Sails spread before the Wind, not without some firing after us, because we went off without leave, we Sailed before a prosperous Gale

Gale till we came within ten Leagues of the Weſt of *England*, but then a Storm ariſing, we were driven off to Sea, and continually toſſed too and fro, till ſuch time as the greateſt part of our ill-gotten Goods were damaged and ſpoiled by the coming in of the Salt Water; but that which followed was worſe, it ſo happened that at length we fell foul of a Rock which broke our Veſſel in pieces, and now every one providing for his own ſafety, our Boat being before broke looſe, and loſt in the Storm, I not capable to take my Miſtreſs with me, who cryed after me for help, got upon a piece of the Main-Maſt, and ſo backing the Waves committed my ſelf to their Mercy and the Guidance of Fortune who had hitherto at Sea rendered me unfortunate, and ſo for the ſpace of two days and as many nights, I lay hulling up and down till almoſt quite ſpent, when ſo it happened when Death began gaſtly to ſtare me in the Face, and all my former iniquities came freſh into my mind, I was taken up by a ſmall Fiſher-boat that had been driven out to Sea by ſtreſs of Weather, and ſet on ſhoar at *Southampton*, which made me fall on my knees and give praiſe and thanks to my Deliverer, proteſting and reſolving with my ſelf for the future to live honeſtly ſeeing ſuch

dreadfull Mischiefs and Dangers attend an evil course of Life: but the *Ethiopian* cannot change his Skin, nor indeed could I my wilfull Practices, to which I had accustomed my self, though for a while the danger I had escaped being fresh in my memory, put a stop to my full career in Villany.

THE English Rogue;

OR, WITTY EXTRAVAGANT:

THE FOURTH PART.

CHAP. XXIII.

Being Shipwrack'd in his Return from India, *he is cast on shoar. Discovers a pleasant Adventures. Is termed a Conjurer. Plays many strange Exploits, and helps a Rich Virgin to a Husband. Gets into a Gentlewomans private Favour, and being like to be surprized by the Husband, she wittily brings him off.*

BEing again cast into the Ballance of Poverty, by this unexpected Loss, I found my self necessitated to employ my Wits, and it being late and I moneyless, I was yet loth to lye in the Street, and therefore

fore went boldly to a private House, and making my Condition known to the Maid that came to the door, she related it to her Mistress, [illegible] request was only for a Lodging, which some unwillingness at pretending she was a new married Woman, her Husband out of Town, her Servants few, and that there might be danger and scandal in Lodging a Man in her House in her Husband's absence (pretending to an extraordinary stock of modesty and much chast reservedness) she at length ordered the Maid to shew me into the Garret, where, in a corner of it, I found an old flock Quilt and a Coverlid, where Madam's Lap-Dogs it seems were used to take their Repose; however I thought this, though a hard one, better than my Lodging upon the Waves: yet being both hungry and dry, and finding by what already I understood it would be in vain to ask for a further supply in these Quarters, weary as I was, I layed me down but could not sleep, my Guts and Stomach kept such a grumbling, when for a while I perceived all was still, but after that my Ears were saluted with the going of a Jack, which still made my Appetite more keen: not long was it before I heard the Door open and a Man's Voice, which being at a very late hour, and the Maid having told me

there

there was not any Man a Retainer to the House but her Master, who was not that night at home, it put me upon the Curiosity of Discovery; whereupon I arose, dressed me I need not, for I had lain down in my Cloaths to save my Bones the better from the hardness of the Bed, and sneaking down, I planted my self where I could plainly perceive a good Supper going forwards, as also a Gentleman very familiar with the pretended coy Mistris of the House; whom, by some words they let fall, I knew to be none of her Husband, and therefore resolved to make my best advantage of it, at least to put in for a share of the Supper, which was no sooner placed on the Table but a loud knocking at the Door was heard, which made them stare upon each other, when the Maid who was sent to see what it meant returned, almost breathless with running, and assured them it was her Master; upon which her Mistris ordered her to delay him entrance as long as, without giving him suspicion, she could; and thereupon immediately concealed her Gallant in the next Room behind the Hangings, and clapped the Dishes, Meat and Wine &c. into her Closet, by which time her Husband was entred, whom she welcom'd and saluted with much seeming Joy for his Return, though she could heartily

have wished him, perhaps, in the Red Sea: but he being ſomewhat ſurprized to ſee ſo large a Fire at that time of night, after he had ſaluted her, asked the cauſe of it: Oh! Husband, ſaid ſhe, I have been troubled with a terrible Fit of the Chollick, and was forced to make this fire to heat Trenchers to lay to my Belly: I am ſorry for that ſaid he, but I was in better hopes that you had dreſſed a good Joynt of Meat, that I might have found ſome of it for my Supper, for I never was ſo hungry in all my Life: O Lord, Husband! ſaid ſhe, do you think I am ſo Prodigal to dreſs Suppers in your abſence? no indeed, both I and my Maid ſupped with a couple of Eggs: but I who knew the contrary, finding my Landlord very urgent for ſomewhat to be got ready, and having taken an exact Bill of the Fare, approached from my Coverture, and having begged pardon for my bold intruſion, told him that having heard him ſo earneſt for ſomething to eat, in requital for the Entertainment I had received, I reſolved for the more ſpeed, to ſupply him with my Banquet, and not only him but his good Lady and all the Family; which not only amazed him, but put her into a bodily fear, expecting no leſs than that I had been a ſpy upon her Actions and would diſcover the whole Intriegue: however, not being contradicted,

I made

I made a Circle, and waving a switch I had round my head, instead of a Magick wand, I commanded my Spirit, without any noise, invisibly to obey my Command, and therefore after the uttering some Canting words, instead of Conjuration, I spoke in a feigned voice as if I had been answered by some body in the Closet, and then demanded what they would be accommodated withal, to which they replyed, what I pleased; then I fell to naming the particulars I had seen placed there, and then after another eccho of my voice telling them that I was obeyed, I commanded the Maid to open the Closet, where we found all things in order, and so with some scruple of my Landlord, who, though an hungry, was yet unwilling to eat any thing of the Devil's Cooking, as he supposed this to be, we all fell too and fed heartily: then was the Gentleman desirous to see this Spirit that had been so kind to furnish us with this Provision, to which I consented, saying he should pass through the Room in a humane shape, if all present would oblige themselves not to speak a word till he was gone out at the door, which I commanded to be so open least he should take a window or the side of the House with him; and then giving the *Item* to him that all this while stood shivering behind the Hangings for fear of being discs, I

vered, that this was his only time to Escape, he was not so dull, but laying hold of this opportunity, he passed swiftly by to the great fear and amazement of my Landlord, but to the great content of my Landlady, who the next morning very kindly thanked me for bringing her off so genteely; and this being soon noised abroad, I was taken for an absolute Conjurer or Fortune-teller.

Long it was not after this exploit, but a stale Virgin of some Quality, having heard of my Fame, came privately to my Lodging in a Coach, and indeed she was very rich, though Nature had cast her in her roughest mould and rendered her very homely; and although she had before shewed no disposition to alter her Condition, yet now she would needs know of me when she should have a Husband, and what manner of Man the Fates had decreed for her: to resolve this Question I told her required time and caution, and I would rather undertake it, that she might the better prosper in her Wedlock, by the Rules of Astrology, the which, as I further told her, I must not do, by reason I must Calculate her Nativity, before a benevolent Aspect warranted my Progress therein: How long will it then be, said she, before you can marrie me? Why Madam, said I, if you come

too

too morrow in the evening I will not fail to give a full answer to your demand. At this she seemed not a little joyfull; and thereupon, the better to encourage my Worship in making a diligent search into the Scroles of Destiny, she fastened an Angel upon me in earnest of a better Reward, and very thankfully for that time took her leave.

My longing Virgin being gone, I soon by inquiry understood she was a considerable Fortune, and that there was a younger Brother had watched all opportunities to tender his Service to her, but what through bashfulness, want of opportunity and despair or distrust of success, he had not hitherto done it: to this Blade I sent, who immediately came, wondering what my business was, whereupon I acquainted him, that having lately seen him by chance, I had read such good Fortune in his Face as had obliged me to Calculate his Nativity, and that I found him the Favourite of the Stars, if he would be so wise or kind to himself as not to let slip the golden opportunity they offered: at this he stood more amazed, and humbly begged me to explain my meaning: why, said I, there is a mighty Fortune promised you, a Wife exceeding Rich: and who may it be, said he, almost leaping for Joy, that matters not said I, but if you will be ruled by me, I

will

will put her into your Power, to this he readily consented, promising to gratefie me in the highest nature if he succeeded; wherefore I ordered him at such a time to walk in such a place and the Gentlewoman should meet him exactly at a time prefixed, and fall extreamly enamour'd of him: but before I will, said I, confirm this Happiness to you I expect a Bond of Fifty pounds to be payed upon the day of Marriage, a small matter out of Three thousand pounds, which is her Portion: at this he bogled not in the least, but presently signed and sealed, delivering it to my use; whereupon I described her, and ordered him to Complement her to a Tavern when he met her in the place appointed. The Business being in this forwardness, the Gentlewoman at the time appointed came, against which I had prepared a great deal of scribble or cringle-crangle, and so from thence began to take the height of her Fortune, you have, said I, Madam, never yet been crossed in Love nor troubled with many Suiters: No, said she, and this I gathered from her Deformity, but, continued I, by your too much reservedness and long living a Virgin, you have almost lost the favour of the Stars: I hope, said she, 'tis but almost, not altogether: Indeed, said I, I have been very importunate with the Spirits of the Air

to

to turn back the Wheel of Fate, or it had been your hard Fortune to have dyed a Maid: at this she started and seemed somewhat discomposed; but now, said I, I have prevailed with the Genij or good Angels, for some small time to keep that Decree from being Registred, and to morrow about four of the Clock if you take a walk in such a Place, I will prevail with the Spirit that drives the Chariot of *Venus* to prevail with his Mistriss that you may there meet with the Man who is designed to be your Husband, and pray be not coy least you overslip the happy moment, he is young and handsome, and the Token is, that he shall all on a sudden fix his Eyes upon you, fall desperately in Love, and tender his Service to you, which refuse not, but comply with what he modestly requires, for he will instantly intreat you to go with him to a Tavern; nor shall you separate before the happy union is confirmed by the tyes of Matrimony: at this overjoyed, she drew out a piece of Gold and presented me with it, promising to observe all that I had directed: but Madam, said I, this is a small Reward, though as for my Labour, which had it been to do any young Gentlewoman good, it would suffice, but the Angel of the North has mightily stood your friend in this matter, and he will

take

take it ill if there be no Present made him for his kindness, and may?, peradventure, taking pet for the being no better regarded, club with some malevolent Star to blast your approaching happiness: How! Sir, said she, starting and looking pale through the effects of fear, I hope not so, but however Sir, said she, what will content him? Madam, said I, that Diamond Ring upon your Finger is most proper, for Money he takes none: at this she paused a while, yet in the end drew it off and desired me to be so kind as to present it to him, for, continued she, I know not where to find him; and thereupon dropping me a low Curtzee she departed, and these two at the time appointed meeting, concluded the Marriage, and I afterward had my Money, and some considerable advantages over and above, besides the Fame I got of being a great Astrologer.

And now the Gentlewoman, who had made the Supper for her Friend, which I discovered to her Husband, frequently visited me, and often gave me thanks for bringing her so fairly off; and thereupon invited me, who had now taken an Apartment of my own to pay her a Visit in her Husbands absence, which accordingly I did, and offered my further Service to please her in the height of enjoyment, which she at first in a seeming

anger

nger refused, but plainly perceiving a yielding in her eyes, I so prosecuted my Suit, that between willing and unwilling, with some small struggling, she fell in my Arms and melted in a Rapture of Love. But as it happened to her quondam Friend, so, and worse it had befallen me, had not her sudden Wit, which in a Woman is always most acute, prevented it; for whilst we lay folded in the soft Chains of Love and Pleasure, we heard the good Man, who was somewhat ancient, and had by a misfortune lost the sight of one of his Eyes, coming up stairs, and was almost entered before we could disengage; however I got under the Bed, and she with open Arms and much seeming Joy went to meet him, when catching him about the neck, with a dissembling kiss she said, O Lord! Husband, how dearly welcome are you to me, especially at this time when I so earnestly longed to see you: for what cause, said he? what is the meaning of this Language? Oh my dear! replyed she, as I lately went to take a Nap, I had the pleasantest Dream in the World, methought a Man in shining Rayment stood by me, and delivered a glass of water, and thereupon telling me he had brought it to restore your sight, he vanished in a flame; at which starting from my Dream this Glass stood by my Bed-side,

which confirmed it; therefore pray sit down and let me instantly apply some of it to your Eyes that we may not seem to slight so precious a favour so miraculously conferred upon us; at this he at first laughed, but the intreating him to suffer it, he at last consented, when holding open both his Eyes, she with a feather dipped in the Vinegar, for such it was, so bespatter'd his seeing Eye, by a wilful mistake, that the pain made him cry out she had now quite blinded him, I was not so remiss as to slip so fair an opportunity, but crawling out on all fours, sneaked down stairs unseen and so escaped the danger.

CHAP. XXIV.

He comes for London, commits many Extravagancies by the way. He sets up for an Innkeeper, and gives a Relation of sundry Frauds and deceits he us'd to get Money by, and recounts some strange Adventures, &c.

REsolving now for *London* in order to gain some Settlement, if any such thing can agree with a Rambling Head, I packed up my Awls and set forwards with such Money as I had got; but wanting a Horse

Horſe I propoſed to purchaſe one at a Fair held for Horſes and other Cattel, lying in my Road, but was furniſhed e'er I arrived there, at an eaſier rate, for finding a fellow drunk and aſleep upon a good Beaſt in the Road, the Horſe likewiſe ſtanding very ſtill, I got four Hedge-ſtakes of equal length, and fixing their ſharp ends in the Ground, un-girthed the Saddle and ſupporting it with the ſtakes, drew the Horſe from under him, and leaving him ſo mounted upon his wooden Supporters, away I Rode to the next Town and there bought me a Saddle, but wanting a pair of Boots I was reſolved to have them at an eaſier rate; therefore planting my Horſe at ſome diſtance that I might eaſily mount when I ſaw occaſion, I went to a Shoemaker's ſhop and cheapning a pair, drew them on to try if they would fit, when complaining of their ſtraitneſs, whilſt the Shoemaker was buſie in looking out another pair, I ſtarted out of the Shop and betook me to my heels, which he perceiving, followed me, crying ſtop him, ſtop him, whilſt I cryed louder a Race, ſtop me not, for I run with him at the diſadvantage of having Boots on to his Shoes: upon which the People on every hand giving way, I ſoon got to Horſe, and mounting, was quickly out of reach, nor did I ſtop till I came to the Place intended; and now,

as

as I said, resolving upon some Settlement, I hearkned out for an Inn, which I soon heard of, thinking that the best where I might have conversation with all sorts of Company; and having the best part of a hundred pound, which by the former ways mentioned, and various other Tricks and Slights, I had gotten, being now worn out of Remembrance with my Creditors, I proceeded to take it at a venture, and retained the Servants that formerly belonged to the last that occupied it: but finding my stock a little scanty, I resolved to increase it by the Sail of my Diamond Ring, that should have been presented to the Angel of the North; and thereupon I went and offered it to a Goldsmith, demanding his Judgment what it was worth; who supposing I was ignorant of the value, told me he believed it might be worth Ten pounds, I hope so Sir, said I, and a great deal more, not much, said he, fifteen is the extremity, and so much I will venture to give for it if it be right; for, says he, here is one that I will warrant to be so, which I would be glad to sell for Twenty pounds: it may be so, Sir, said I, but pray let me see it a little, that I may compare them; when having it in my hand and perceiving he set it at that price only to wheedle me, it being of a far greater value: and you will, Sir, said I,

sell

this for Twenty pounds? Ay, said he, with all my Heart, and get by it too, for Diamonds are very cheap of late; then, said I, will be your Chapman, and so told him out Money, whereat he looked very blank d refused to receive it, saying, he knew s but in jest, for that, Sir, said I, I have y choice, and therefore think fit to be your stomer for this Ring, and accordingly put it my pocket, taking witness of my Bargain some that stood by; but in fine, he began storm and sent for a Constable, who carri- me before a Justice, who, notwithstand- the Goldsmith then alledged his Ring s worth 80 pounds, upon hearing the witnesses, declared it was a fair Bargain, quitted me, and indeed I soon after d it for upward of 70 pounds, and my own r upwards of 50 pounds, which put me in- a good stock, so that I soon fell into a way Trading, and hearing the Wife I left be- nd me was dead, I began to conclude my lf, after all my sufferings, a happy Man

Long I had not been here, but two Gentlemen came with their Servants to sojourn with me whilst they stayed in Town, and the Servants mistaking their Order, came into the Kitchen, and ordered a dozen of Capons and a couple of Larks, when it should have been the contrary, to be layed down for their

Supper

Supper: and although I well understood the mistake, yet it being to my advantage I dissembled it & accordingly they were made ready, but the Gentlemen, when they came to the Table, began to bless themselves, however, I proving by my Maid that it was by their Servants order, the blame was taken off from me: yet, said I, Gentlemen you think this too much for your selves, when, if I am not mistaken, I know one Man will eat them all at a Meal for a Wager; at which they fell into a greater admiration, and proffered not only to pay for them, but to lay a Wager of Twenty shillings on it. Now I had heard of a Neighbour of mine that was a mighty Eater, and therefore resolved to know if he would undertake it, and delayed them till that time, under pretence that I would be first satisfied whither he had Supped or not: however, he being consulted, though he said it was a hard task, undertook it, and blessed his Maw that such dainty morsels should fall to his share. In fine, he eat up ten of the Capons and had the eleventh upon his Trencher, when looking upon me, he began to change Countenance, and whispering me in the ear, told me I had lost, for he could eat no more; what is that he says, said one of the Gentlemen? why, said I, he says he could eat a dozen

dozen more: Oh mouſtrous! ſays the other Gentleman, this is the Devil ſure, however I ſhall not altogether perceive us of our ſup-per, and ſo one ſnatched up that which re-mained in the Diſh, and the other that which was upon his Trencher, yielding thereby the Wager loſt.

Soon after this Adventure, I had a couple of Gueſts came to my Houſe who were ex-ceeding niggardly, and taking up for their lodging a Room that I could have put to better uſe, I ſoon grew weary of them, not to be uncivil, I invented a ſtratagem in this manner, which took effect beyond ex-pectation: The Room being high Ceiled, I nailed in the day-time four Pulleys to be fa-ſtened in the Joiſts, and through them Cords to the 4 corners of the Bed-ſteads, which could not eaſily be diſcerned, and then orde-red the Servants to give out that that Room was haunted, and that there had been ſeveral ſtrange noiſes and voices heard in it, which they ſo induſtriouſly did, that it came to the ears of my Gueſts, who looked upon it, how-ever, as an *Æſop*'s Fable, or an Old womans Tale, and therefore when night came they went to Bed at the uſual hour without ta-king further notice; but having no faſtning to their Door, about midnight I cauſed a Calf to be put into the Room, who being in

the

the dark to fall to stamping and bleating, which waked my Guests, who now thinking *Belzebub* was come indeed to torment them, and the story they had heard being fresh in their minds, they, in much fear and amazement, shrunk under the Bed-cloths, but at length, hearing no further noise, one of them adventured to rise, and there being some Embers of a fire, resolved to light a Candle, but no sooner did the Calf espy the glimmering of the light by his blowing, but he made thitherwards, and the Man being now upon all fours, with his shirt confusedly wrapped about his Waste, the Calf perceiving something like his Mother's Tet hang between his Legs, with a horrible bleating seized upon it, and fell to tugging his Label of mortality at such a rate that he roared out as if he been killed; which his Companion hearing and supposing the Devil was hoisting him into the Air, he went to get out of the Bed, thinking to hide himself under it, but it being now drawn up a great height, making a false step, down he tumbled headlong, almost shivering his Bones to pieces, which made him roar as loud as the other, insomuch that the whole House was alarm'd; but before a light came in, the Bed was let down and the Calf removed; yet so far wrought the terrour of it, that my Guests burnt Candle the remaining

part

part of the night, and early the next morning paying their Reckoning departed, as I could wish. These Ouels had not been long gone, before several Youngsters came in, who had been a Shooting, it then being Winter time, and delivered to the Maid several Hens and Geese, which I understood they had taken up as free Plunder; and finding them but Novices, I resolved they should pay for their first Enterprize: wherefore I habited my Hostler like a Country-man with a grey Coat, a pair of dirty Boots, a leather belt about his Waste, a little Band and a broad flapping Hat, and got another to personate a Constable, and when Dinner was over and I perceived they began to call for their Reckoning, up I sent my Merchants with the Heads and Feathers of the Geese and Hens, where my Hostler pretending to be the Country-man from whence they had stole them, and the other producing a piece of written Parchment, being no other than an old Indenture, so terrified our Youngsters who were tender of their Reputation, that having consulted me about it, and entreated me to intercede for them, the other urging the Loss of a many more whom they suspected them to have; I gave in my Verdict that there being six of them, they should lay down Ten shillings a piece for the Country-

try-

try-man's loss sustained, and spend Five shillings a piece to make him amends for his Civility in not carrying them before a Justice and prosecuting them for the Felony, which they immediately did, vowing never more to gratefie their Appetites by such indirect ways as occasioned so ere Sawce to their sweet Meats.

CHAP. XXV.

He prosecutes the Adventures of his Life in the Relation what he there observed [illegible] ordered and managed his Affairs [illegible] laying down the particulars [illegible] Stories: with his going into [illegible]

IT once fortuned, whilst I kept [illegible] that a Company of Town-Chaps [illegible] picked up a Country Fellow of whom [illegible] had got a considerable parcel of [illegible] a Chain of Gold, they pretended [illegible] to find, but indeed dropped on purpose; nor did this suffice them, for they finding in the Room a pair of Cards, that they themselves, as is their usual way, laid there, had drawn him in, by betting and going halves, till they had disembogu'd him of Twenty pounds

unds, upon which, though I connived at
resolved to have
brought in Wine and o-
manner, taking
and Pots, and yet for
double at the same
it no sin to deceive the de-
being all pretty well flu-
their Appetites whetted with
called for a Supper, and there-
brought them in a couple of Ca-
them more as fast as it could
that I might augment their drink-
the mean time, they one by
asleep; and then setting several
Dishes upon the Table, and
of divers Fowls upon their
as Pheasants, Pigeons, Par-
such as had been the Scraps
several days eating, I left them
which when they did, they
to call for more Victuals, why Gen-
you have had what the House
all sorts of Fowl; and then I na-
them, which made them admire and
they knew nothing of the matter:
day, replyed I, this is a fine drunken
for you'll remember nothing by and
why you don't remember, I'll warrant
you, the Collar of Brawn and four Neats-

Tongues that cost me Twenty Shillings out of my Pocket, to which they pretended ignorance, as well they might: however, my Host, says one of them, bring in your Bill, you must be payed, and by this means found a way to go imps with them in the Country Cully's Coin.

One merry Adventure there happened in my House which was this, we had several Beds in some Rooms, and it fell out that a Country-man and his Wife coming to lodge there, the Man being weary went to Bed, but the Woman sate up somewhat later, when as another Person that was to lodge in a second Bed, in the same Room, went to Bed likewise, and finding the Country-man fast asleep, knowing that his Wife was to come to him, exchanged Cloaths, laying his own upon the Country-man's Bed, and the Country-man's upon his, covering his Face with the Sheet, and so went to Bed to wait the event; when some time after, the Woman coming in with a winking light, knowing her Husbands Cloaths, went into that Bed to the Stranger, who seeming to awake out of his sleep began to embrace her, and so well performed the Business of Love, that finding he out-shot her Husband by a Bars length, she began to suspect she was mistaken; however, being in a strange Place,

and

and not altogether displeased with her Bed-fellow, and fearing in the dark to run into a worse error if she should rise, she suffered him, not without some weak struglings, to take his fill of Love, but obliged him to be gone betimes in the morning; and accordingly he went, when the Husband waking, got out of the Bed to feel for a Chamber-pot, and being about to enter it again, she called out to him, saying, Husband, Husband, at whose voice he turned that way, and told her he was sure he was not mistaken, but the room made him believe the contrary, by shewing him his Cloaths, and so to Bed with her he went, not doubting but she had accompanied him all that night.

My House, by this time, being somewhat noted, I was found out by several of my Padding-Companions, who made me their Counsellor in the time of their distress, and took the convenience of several Apartments for their Refuge: and once it so fell out that one of them was taken, sore wounded and sent to Prison, yet the chief thing charged upon him, was a Watch found about him which he had taken from a Gentleman, and this Blade being the head of their Gang, they were all in much sorrow for him; wherefore giving them words of comfort, I promised them so to order the matter for a Summe of

Money that he should be acquitted; and so we agreed upon fifty pounds, and I gave directions that he upon his Tryal should plead he bought the Watch of an unknown Person, in such a place, and on such a day, and that I would hire a Fellow who should so order it, that attempting to pick a Pocket, he would wilfully be apprehended and brought into Court at that instant, and that he should charge him to be the Man he bought it of, and he should own all, which was accordingly done, and the High-way-man acquitted but the other committed; yet he upon his Tryal proved himself to be a Prisoner at the time the Robbery was committed, and alledging he might be mistaken in the Watch, he was likewise acquitted: So that the High-way-man, for one Fact, not being capable of being Tryed twice for his Life was discharged. Yet soon after I had a trick put upon me; for a Person coming in to Drink had a Silver Bowl carried him in with his Liquor, and when he had payed his Reckoning he came out of that Room, but went not away till the Boy returned and assured me the Plate was missing, whereupon I demanded it of him, but he protested he left it in the Room, and upon search, none being found about him, nor had he any Person to deliver it to, I could not tell what to do in the matter; but not-

notwithstanding the bustle I made, I was forced to sit down by the loss, though soon after, I understood he was in the right on it, when he said the Bowl was in the Room, for he had stuck it with soft Wax to the bottom of the Table, and not being perceived by some of his Companions, choosing afterward that Room to drink in, fetched it away. And now though I had a pretty good Trade, yet Heaven prospered not my Villanies, for soon after, by an accidental Fire in the Hay-loft, my House was burnt, which obliged me, the greatest part of my Goods being lost, to leave off House-keeping, and for fear of having a House of another nature, or one more durable, provided for me by my Creditors, I dismissed my Servants and Posted away with what Money I had scraped together, to *Dover*, and so in the Packet-boat set sail for *France*, where I safely Landed, and there I had not long been, and taken notice of the Rarities of the City, before I was accosted by an *English* Blade, whom I had some small notice of in one of my former Rambles, and now being in a strange Country we knit our Acquaintance and Friendship more strongly; for knowing him to be a Free-Booter, I imagined we must take one and the same Course to support our selves: but being yet full of Money, we followed our

our Pleasure to a high degree, and one day upon enquiry he informed me of a famed Courtezan, whom he assured me was the most celebrated Beauty of the Town, and praised her to that degree, that I was fired to pay her a Visit, which he told me would not be accepted of, unless I went alone, wherefore I entreated him to dispense with my absence till I had tryed this Adventure.

Being arrived at the House, I was conducted up stairs by a Female Scout, and very courteously received by Madam, who was indeed what Fame had reported her in outward Beauty, whom with profound Reverence I saluted, but when I proposed the matter I came about, she started and blushed as if she had not in the least suspected my intent, and pretended so much coyness and modesty, that I verily supposed her a Person of Quality, and thought that I had been imposed upon, yet soon I perceived all was but feigned to make me the more enamoured, and to discover what Presents I intended to make, whereupon I drew out handfuls of Money, under pretence of sending for Wine and sweet Meats, but it needed not, for she had them in the house, and now she began to sit nearer me, and sometimes to smile upon me, which made me renew my Suit, and knowing nothing operates more powerfully

on

en of Women than Wealth, I presented her with a fine Watch, which so melted her reservedness that, after an Amorous kiss or two, she fell in my Arms, and I improving the opportunity, was not idle, but proceeded to the amorous Dalliances, and often after that enjoyed her as opportunity would give me leave, when she was not employed with her other Amorists, though she had but few, and those of good quality; however, my Money coming to an ebb, I found my Entertainment more cold, and was so often put off by the Servants, by telling me she was not within, or was sick, or could not be spoken with, that I grew angry and vowed revenges, but knew I could not perform it handsomely without a stock of Money; whereupon I consulted my Companion how we should recruit, who told me, that though extraordinary Adventures were scarce in that Country, yet he had his mind upon one that would make us both, if it succeeded, I told him I was contented at any rate to run an equal hazard with him, and so he told me it was to Rob a rich Linnen-Draper of his Cash; and thus we contrived it; we went into the Draper's Shop and bought a considerable parcel of Linnen, giving Bank-bills for it, but telling him withall, that we were to remit to *Calais* by Land, and from

thence to Ship it for *England* with other Goods, and therefore desired the convenience of his Shop to let them stand in till we could have an opportunity to send them away; to this he readily consented, and the next day in the Evening we sent in a Bale, by a seeming Porter, supposed to be Silks and Stuffs well packed and corded, which was received without any suspicion, but proved a Trojan Horse to his Estate, for in it we had bundled up one of my Companion's Comrades, a Rogue, though of little stature, yet arch enough for our purpose; who, in the dead of night, cutting his ways out with his knife, let us in, who waited for that purpose, and then, with false Keys, we opened the Counting House, and took thence six hundred Crowns, and conveyed away with us, to prevent suspicion, the empty Covering of the Bale, and another Bale of Linnen that was ready packed up; and leaving the street door a jar, departed, and shared our Prize, and so confident were we, that, in two days after, we went to the Drapers, tendering the Money for the Linnen we bought, as likewise demanding the Goods that were left there for us: we could read discontent in his Visage, before he sadly told us he had been Robbed since our being there, and amongst other things, they had taken our Pack away.

At

At this, my Companion began to ſtorm, proteſting that the value of it, was at leaſt a thouſand Crowns, which I likewiſe confirmed, and both of us alledged, that we could believe no other than that we being ſtrangers it was a Trick in him to defraud us, and that we would have ſatisfaction, ſeeing it was delivered into his Poſſeſſion; and ſo high we grew, pretending our ſelves to be Merchants, that, to be rid of us, he gave us not only the Linnen we bought, but fifty Crowns over to buy our Peace.

Being now fully furniſhed with Money, I put my ſelf into a very rich Garb, and again went to viſit my Madam, forcing my way to her by charging through her Train of Servants with golden *French* Piſtols, and the perceiving the Caſe altered with me, made me as kind a reception as at firſt, denying ſeveral admittance upon my account, inſomuch that I preſented her with a Diamond Locket of conſiderable value, which ſhe put into a Cabinet where her Treaſure lay, conſenting that I ſhould have, in lieu of it, a whole nights Lodging with her precious Ladyſhip, and that it was, that I aimed at, ſo that then I began to call for Wine, and to impoſed upon her free Nature, before Bed-time that the Creature prevailed againſt her; for we had not been long in Bed together, before the

she fell into a profound sleep, which I taking for my time, to effect what I designed, packed up the Cabinet with sundry peices of Plate, and other things of value in my own Cloaths; and upon the signal, which was a feigned whistle, giv'n by my Companions in the Street, I let them down by a Cord into their Possession, and so went to Bed again, and pretended to sleep so long in the Morning, that I found her awake, and then I turned to her and begged her excuse, for my drowsiness, tenderly embracing her soft and delicate Body; the which, had it been Chast and Vertuous, might have given delight and satisfaction to the greatest Potentate; but looking towards the Balcony-door, which was open, I asked her the reason why it was left so, she told me she knew nothing but the contrary when she went to Bed, and then perceiving her Cabinet not in the place where it used to stand, she jumped out of the Bed, and cryed out she was Robbed and utterly undone! whereupon, I then first pretending to miss my Cloaths, made a louder Exclamation than she, telling her what vast Treasure I had about me, and therefore added, that I believed it was some Confederate of hers, that had done it, for I had been, upon the like occasion, so served in *England*, and therefore vowed immediately to send for

Cloaths

Cloaths from my Lodging and go to the Magistrate with my Complaint, whereupon, she being descended of a good Family, and tender of the Reputation of her Friends, which must suffer in this discovery, fell on her knees, protesting Innocency, and with Tears beseught me to be pacified, and not go about to put her to any Disgrace, and although she had not the least hand in it, but was a far greater sufferer than my self, yet if I would require it, she protested that, as soon as it lay in her power, she would give me so much Money as I could positively affirm I had lost, this abated my seeming Anger, and I only told her at present, I would desire of her a Suit of Cloaths, that this misfortune might be concealed from my Friends, which immediately she sent for, and had with them all other necessaries for wearing; and so promising not to give her any further trouble, I took my leave, and knowing where to find my Companions, we shared our prize, and it amounted to each of us 300 Crowns, nor did I fail to have my own Cloaths and my Money over and above.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVI.

He gives the Relation of a very pleasing and gratifying Adventure that happened by mistake. What he observed thereupon. And how he Acquitted himself, and what ensued.

THus heightned with success, we were yet obliged to keep close, for the most part, in the day-time, and there we contrived what was to be done in the night, as Rambling abroad as late as we durst, for fear of the Watches, and so it fortuned that one night, scattering to give the less distaste or suspicion, as I was making Westward a back door that came into a By-lane, upon the sudden turning my self, my Sword Chapped it against it, and gave a small rap, whereupon the door opened and I heard a Female voice say, Sir, Sir, this made me turn about, when one catching hold of my Cloak, told me, in a soft whispering tone, that now there was a convenient opportunity to injoy my Mistris, this unexpected Adventure did not at first a little surprize me, but recollecting my self, I considered that it must needs be some appointment, and that by a mistake I was taken for the Gentleman who

who was to perform the loving Combate; wherefore, setting a good Face on't, I followed the Maid Servant, as I afterward understood her to be, without making any reply, who lead me by the hand through a long dark Entry, and then up divers pair of stairs into as dark a Chamber, and at the Bedside left me, when immediately I heard a Female voice in Bed say softly, it is well my dear you are happily come this night; yet pray be silent least any over-hear us: this suiting as I could wish, I presently unstripped and soon found in the Embraces of this my unknown Mistriss, all the soft Endearments of a tempting Beauty; and when she demanded any Questions, why I had been so long absent? and why I did not oftner endeavour to make our Loves more happy? I, in a soft whispering, by which she could not discover the mistake, gave her sutable Replys, and conceited my self, in a manner, imparadiced, when she took me in her Arms, desiring no more than that I could have a sight of what I guest to be, an admirable Creature, but knew such a request would make a Discovery. And now the day approaching, the Maid fearing we might over-sleep our selves after such soft Recreation, came softly and whisper'd me that it was time for me to be gone, nor did I delay it, but instantly put on

my

my Cloaths; when at the parting kiss she crammed a Purse into my hand, in which I found afterwards Twenty Pistols, this I pocketed, and so was lead out the same way I was brought in, and giving the Maid a brace of Crowns, I departed, highly pleased with my Adventure, yet kept it altogether private from my Companions, as knowing it might be of further use to me.

Having marked the Place, and being very desirous to see my Mistriss, I found it to be a Mercer's House, whose Shop fronted into the great street, which made me make divers turns before it, as imagining she might look out at the Window, or come down stairs; nor did my expectation fail me, for soon I perceived a most Angelick Creature, not exceeding eighteen years of Age, descend into the lower Apartment *alias* Shop, and guessing it might be she, I resolved to have a more perfect view of her, and so entering, demanded to see some Stuffs, when as Fortune would have it, the Man by her Order, was just going to call his Master from a Tavern, and thereupon she supplyed his Place, so that we quickly agreed, I not regarding the price, for the value was inconsiderable, but had no sooner drawn out the same Purse, but she fixed her Eyes upon it, and being no stranger to it, waxed extream pail, which I

perceiving

perceiving, said, nay, Madam, be not discomforted, though you was pleased to favour me, as I then suppose by mistake, the last night, with your Love, and gave me this as a Token of the same. This put her into a [illegible] confusion, so that I was forced to use many Arguments and endearing Expressions, with protestations of an eternal Concealment, to prevent her from Swooning; to which, when she had a little recovered her self from the Amaze she was in, she replyed, that she had been mistaken indeed, but hoped I was so much a Gentleman, as not only to pardon her frailty, but likewise to conceal what proceeded through an excess of love to one that should have been her Husband, yet for the present, she had made merry, though by a strange mistake: she hoped I would take it in good part; and intreated me, as I tender'd the joy and tranquility of true Lovers, to attempt nothing further in this kind, which, with some regret, I promised to observe, and so adding to her former bounty a Ring of considerable value, her Husband coming in at that instant, she retired, and I departed with my Stuff.

The End of the Fourth Part.

THE

THE FIFTH PART OF THE English Rogue:

OR,

Witty Extravagant:

Compleating the entire Series of his Life and Actions, &c. being the Conclusion of the memorable Passages that attended it.

CHAP. XXVII.

He has many Tricks put upon him in France, *which makes him return for* England, *and there he is Imprisoned. The Trick he put upon his Keeper, and Escaped. How he turned Mountebank, and of the pleasant Adventure that happened thereupon.*

MAny misfortunes I heard of made me cautious of *French* Sharpers, yet could I not so well manage my Affairs, but they were too hard for me, which made me not a little wonder; however I bore it patiently, as knowing I had been a great deceiver my self, but being now, like a Fish, out of my Element, had almost lost my

my dexterity; for walking one night late, in the search of Adventures, I was caught in the Trap in this manner, Two Fellows seiz'd upon me, and without any attempt to Rifle me, forced open my Mouth and put a piece of Iron, in the form of a Pear, into it, termed amongst them, as I since understood, a Choakpear, and clapping a small Key into it, turning the Wards in the Cavity, when by sundry springs, the Joynts unloosing it swelled so that my Mouth being stretched with it I could neither speak nor receive any Nutriment; when on a sudden, putting a Note into my hand, they left me, so that going home I stood, upon my entrance like Mum-chance, which made my Companions, who knew this Trick was usual, and indeed had warned me to beware of it, laugh in abundance; when opening the Note the substance of it was that I should, if I intended to have the use of my Mouth again, bring them Ten Crowns the next evening, and they would release me of the incommodity that I must otherwise endure: upon this, being somewhat discontented, I resolved not to gratifie them in their demands, and therefore consulted divers Smiths to take it out, but they assured me it was case hardened and no file could touch it, nor could they warrant me without a long Tryal, in which time, I not being capable of receiving sustenance, might be famished or be wonderfully weakened and brought low; and withall told me there was no other way than to comply with their unreasonable demands, when seeing no remedy, I found my self obliged to do it, and was taken in the manner as I formerly mentioned, and in the same manner discharged, which made me think of leaving the Country, as being almost [illegible] to find my self out-wisted: but my Companions encouraging me to try further Adventures, advised me to be more cautious, and not to walk the By-ways, which advice I carefully observed; yet it was not in

my

my power to shun all dangers, for one day being abroad, I was invited by a Gentleman, whom I had entertained at my Lodging, to Dine with him the next day, and bring, if I pleased, a Friend with me; this Invitation being over-heard by a Sharper, he watched my coming about the time appointed, and being in a genteel habit, boldly followed me, I not suspecting but that he had been an invited Guest, nor did the Gentleman imagine him to be any other than one I had brought with me as my Friend, for he confidently took his Place without any more than the ordinary Ceremony. But Dinner being ended, in the height of our jollitry he went off with a silver Salt and a silver Bowl, which caused my Friend to think, for a time, somewhat hardly of me, though I protested I knew him not, nor indeed could it come in my mind that I had ever seen him before, unless in the Thieve's Wardrobe where I went once to fetch my Cloak.

These Discouragements confirmed me that there was no good to be done in these Parts, although in the beginning I had had good success, and therefore I concluded to repass the Seas, intimating as much to my Companion, laying before him great advantages, insomuch that his stock growing low, he hearkned to my advice. But scarce was I re-enter'd *London* but I was espyed by one of my Creditors, who lodging me in a house, immediately Napp'd me for Fifty pounds, whereupon I was obliged to turn my self over to the *Fleet*; yet not intending to stay long there, I went in Term-time abroad upon a Rule with my Keeper, resolving not to return with him; so that carrying him from place to place, pretending a great deal of Business, I supposed to have made him drunk, but he regarding his Charge appeared more cautious; whereupon I was obliged to invent another stratagem, and so pretending to be Trimmed, I went into a Barber's shop and indeed suffered my self so to be used, and

when

when I had quitted the Chair desired my Keeper to sit down, telling him I would pay for his Trimming, whose Face being very hairy he consented to it, and whilst the Barber was preparing for him, I held him in a pleasant Discourse, but no sooner did he begin to be slabber him, but I marched out, the Barber not suspecting me to be a Prisoner, when on a sudden my Keeper, not hearing me talk, opened his Eyes, though to his great pain, and perceiving I was gone, up he started with the froth on his Face, and over-throwing Cut-beard and his Bason, ran out with a Napkin-Cap on his Head like a *Turkish* Turbant, and a Cloth about his shoulders, staring and gazing about him as if he had been distracted, nor was the Barber slow in following him with his Razor in his hand, crying, stop him, stop him; whereupon, some imagining he followed him to bereave him of his Testicles for committing Cuckoldom, they suffered him to pass on in order to his Escape; but he minding more his staring about than running out-right, as knowing I must have absconded my self in some odd nook or corner, was in the end over-taken; and though he offered to give a reason for what he had done, yet the Barber would hear none, but concluding it an affront to his snipping Occupation, he not only made him pay sixpence though he was not Trimmed, but gave him a Buffet or two, for a parting remembrance, &c.

Being once more at large, I betook me to the Country, and perceiving, in those times, that the Mountebanks got great store of Money, and were much in esteem, thinking that a safer way to subsist, than to venture Hanging for a livelyhood, I procured all manner of necessary Trinkets, and being furnished with a little Latin and much Cant, I set up for a very *Gulen*; and happening to be very fortunate in curing the Belly-ach or healing a Cut-finger, I was soon cryed up by the Ignorant, especially the Old Women, for a

great

Great Proficient and a profound Artist: when a young hot-headed Blade who had married a beautiful Gentlewoman, and without any cause, was infected with the Plague of Jealousie, came to me and desired to speak with me in private, telling me he had Business of great importance to discover, that in bringing it about required my Assistance; and so supposing he had been Hunting in a hot Chace and spoiled his Dinner, I retired with him into my Closet, and there, having conjured me to be secret, he told me his Trouble, and added, that nothing but a Dose of Poison for his Wife and her Gallant, as he supposed him to be, could any way remedy the Fever of his mind; and if I would help him to an effectual Cordial that would send them into the other World, or to Purge that would purge them out of this, whither to Heaven or Hell he mattered not. I should be grieved even to excess, at this, and steadfastly beholding the wildness of his Looks, I was not a little amazed, yet proceeded to divert him from it, by laying before him the danger that attended it here and the horror hereafter; but finding him fixed and immovable in his Resolution, obliging him to eternal silence and concealment, as to my self, I told him for 20 Pieces I would furnish him with a sure Passport to Eternity, and this being agreed on, I ground a considerable quantity of Gum Sandrick, which I gave him to understand was Arsnick, the mortallest of Poisons, at which he seemed much satisfied, and withall I directed him to put it into a Flask of Wine, and then use his discretion to drink to them, or give it as he saw convenient; for I further found by him that he was resolved to bear them Company; and this I did to prevent his going to another, of whom perhaps he might have what he supposed this to be, and thereupon he departed, seeming outwardly very kind to my Wife, and denying that all differences for the fu-

ure might be composed, which made not only her but her Friends greatly to rejoyce, and that his good Affection as he pretended, might be more confirmed, he caused a Feast to be prepared, and invited amongst others the suspected Gentleman; and so, exceeding merry and very much contented they were, to the great satisfaction of all present; and when the Cloth was taken away, he caused the Flask to be fetched, and filling out a Glass, drank to the prosperity of him and his Wife, who gladly pledged him; and then he ordered her to drink to the suspected Gentleman, which, with some unwillingness, pressed by his commands, she did, and was, no doubt, sincerely pledged; but whilst the Gentleman was about to fill to the next, he snatched away the Flask, saying, hold, it is enough, it shall go not further; and whilst the Guest was admiring at his unexpected behaviour, he cryed out, Now have we fairly ended all Differences on Earth, come, come, to your Prayers, to your Prayers for a prosperous Journey, for our time is but short; This put the whole Company into great Consternation and Confusion, so that he wrought every where almost the effects of Death itself, and his words being plain enough to ground suspicion of Poyson on, some were dispatched for Antidotes, and others ran up and down, confusedly, not knowing what they did nor what to do. But in the end, being sent for, I came, where I found the poor Gentlewoman and her Friend on their Knees, offering up, as they supposed, their last Prayers and Petitions to Heaven; and Husband, said the Lady, all bathed in Tears, I freely forgive you this Deed, and all your hard suspitions, though I ever loved you too well to injure you in any wise; and as these are the last words of a dying Wife, whom you have unkindly Murthered, I am Chast and Innocent in what you suspected as are the thoughts of new born Babes.

And

And much to the same purpose her supposed Amourist made his Confession, clearing the Gentlewoman of even the thoughts, as far as ever he could perceive, by her carriage and countenance, of what had been objected against her; which made our Desperado stand confounded and amazed, fixing his Eyes for a while on the Earth, but he no sooner perceived me to enter, but he cryed out, seize that Villain, he it was that furnished me with materials to perpetrate this horrid Villany, thus to destroy, together with my self, those that I now believe to be innocent and chaste as vestal Virgins. And by this time, Conceit had so wrought on all three, that although I could not choose but laugh to my self, yet I found it no time to trifle, least the effects of fear should turn that into a Tragedy that was indeed no other than a Comedy, and thereupon I opened the whole matter, which so deeply amazed them, that for some time though they confessed they felt no pain nor alteration, they could not give credit to my words; but in the end they did, by which means the Gentleman's Jealousie was not only removed, but an intire Love and solid Friendship ensued, and I was not only highly applauded but further rewarded.

CHAP. XXVII.

He is overtaken with Sickness in the midst of his Contrivances; and being worn out with restless Toyle, betakes himself to a strict Reservedness, in order for a Preparation for Death, contemplating his future State.

THis Undertaking agreed not, however profitable it was, with my Constitution, for though much wickedness attended it in sundry ways and manners,

ners, especially in the practising or rather preying upon the Lives of the miserable, I counted it too mean a matter so tamely to destroy; and indeed, in the whole Course of my wicked and villainous Actions and Enterprises, having had an Antipathy against these walking Contagions, who, by their unskilfull and unseasonable Administrations, sweep, like a destroying Pestilence, I cast sundry things in my mind, sometimes I bethought me of taking my self again to the Padding Trade, at other times, considering I was grown in years and had spun out my Life in a Course of Wickedness, and by many ways injured the Innocent, I thought it time to take up and be serious, concluding to throw my self into some settlement, that I might the more comfortably spend the remainder of my days; as having found that Vice, even in the Comission and Enjoyment, is painfull and troublesome, rendring the mind uneasie and disquieted. Whilst these things (I say) ran strangely in my thoughts, a more than ordinary melancholly seized me, which was succeeded by a lingring Disease, and now ceasing from the hurry of my impious Affairs, my Conscience began to open the Volume, that had so long been shut, turning over leaf by leaf the actions of my Life; so that now being sensibly touched, they methought, which before had seemed pleasant stood before me in their horrid and ghastly Forms, each crying loud as the Blood of *Abel* for vengeance against me, and considering I had an immortal Soul, and that divine Vengeance, for the least of the many Crimes, might justly sink me into everlasting flames, there to be tormented in endless Burnings to Eternity: smitten with remorse, I cryed out with St. *Austin*, *With what Companions have I walked the streets of* Babylon! how have I squandered the precious moments, and imployed them in all manner of injury and violence, that were allowed me to barter with Heaven for Life and Immortality! leaving my

self

felf, after ſo much reſtleſs toil and fruitleſs labour, in the Gall of Bitterneſs, finding at laſt all the Pleaſures of this World, but an empty airey Vanity, ſeeming Clouds without Rain, infatuating Fires that lead us aſtray in the Paths of Ruin and Deſolation. And now expecting, in a ſhort time, my Diſſolution, it is my earneſt requeſt, That all Perſons, of whatſoever Age or Sex, would be warned by my many Miſfortunes, and what may yet remain abundantly worſe behind of infinite Mercy interceed not with offended Juſtice, which I have infinitely provoked, to leave me miſerable in the never-ending flight of an immeaſurable Eternity: And now Reader, concluding the Hiſtory of my Life and drawing near my Tomb, I thought good to leave this Epitaph to be affixed thereon.

EPITAPH.

Within this Tomb a wretched Man do's lye,
Whoſe chiefeſt Glory was in Villany;
Fruitleſs Life he lived, all Fortunes try'd,
And monſterously both Heaven and Earth defy'd;
Triumph'd o'er Virtue, Vice was all his Pride,
Striving in nothing more than to excell
In Wickedneſs, and tread the Paths of Hell:
Yet ſeeing all was vanity, at laſt
Turn'd Penitent, and much bewail'd each Cryme,
Himſelf into the Arms of Mercy caſt,
And is lay'd up unto the end of Time.

FINIS.